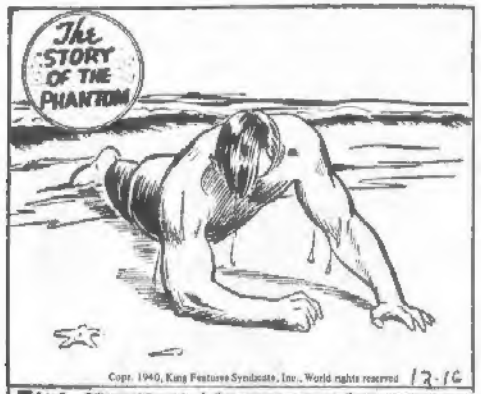
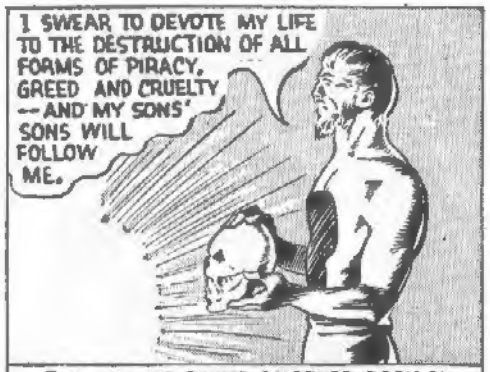


FOUR CENTURIES AGO, THE LONE SURVIVOR OF A PIRATE RAID WAS WASHED UPON A REMOTE BENGALI SHORE. FRIENDLY NATIVES NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH . . . .



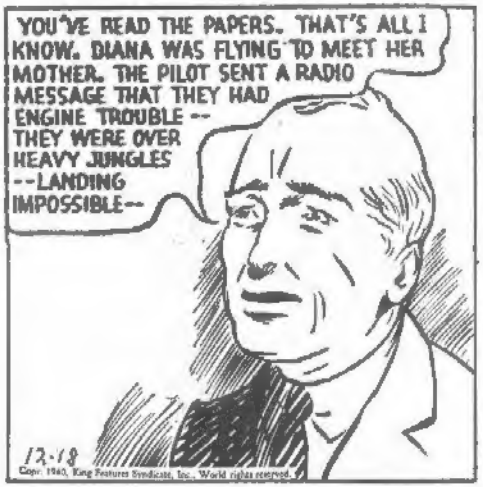
ONE DAY, HE FOUND ANOTHER BODY ON THE BEACH--THE PIRATE WHO HAD MURDERED HIS FATHER! ON THIS PIRATE'S SKULL HE SWORE THE OATH OF THE SKULL! THIS MAN WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM!

FOR FOUR CENTURIES, THE LINE OF THE PHANTOM CONTINUED FROM FATHER TO SON! BUT NATIVES OF THE EAST, BELIEVING IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME MAN--SPEAK HIS NAME IN AWED WHISPERS . . . .

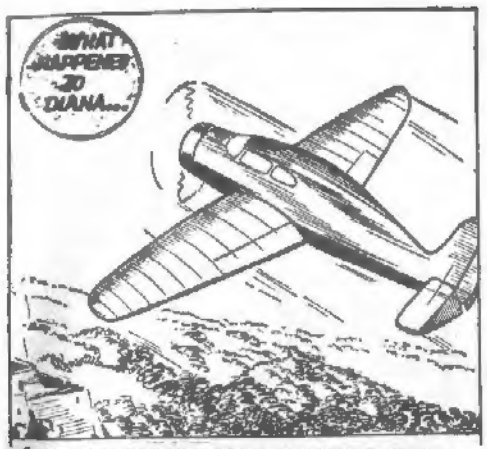
THEY SPEAK OF HIS FABULOUS STRENGTH AND DARING--AND THEY BELIEVE HIM TO BE IMMORTAL! FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND TRUTH, THE PHANTOM WORKS ALONE!

IN HIS CAB, THE PHANTOM READS —

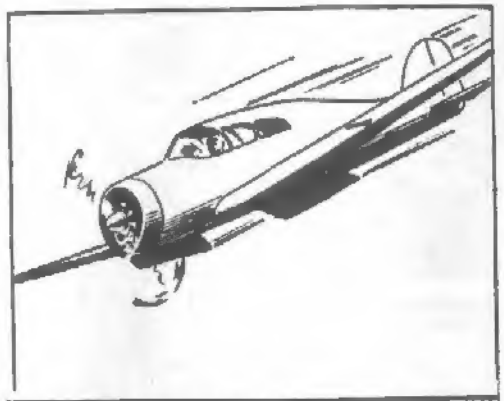
THE PHANTOM PAYS A HURRY-UP CALL TO DIANA'S UNCLE DAVE.



TOMORROW-- WHAT HAPPENED TO DIANA?



AS DIANA AND HER PILOT FLEW OVER HEAVY, IMPENETRABLE CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLES...



THE PILOT GLIDES DESPERATELY -- UTILIZING HIS ALTITUDE TO THE UTMOST -- TRYING TO SPOT AN OPEN FIELD -- BUT THEY ARE OVER A "SEA" OF THICK, UNBROKEN TREE TOPS...

AND SO, WITH A GRIM PRAYER AND A FIRM HAND, HE TRIES THE TREE TOPS! THERE'S NO PLACE ELSE TO GO! —

AND WATCHING FROM THE THICK BUSHES -- cont'd -

I'M TELLING YOU NO ONE'S LIVED IN THAT OLD TEMPLE RUINS FOR CENTURIES, MISS PALMER. NO ONE LIVES IN THESE WOODS --EXCEPT WILD MEN!
THAT'S ALL WE NEED NOW-- WILD MEN!
DIANA AND HER PILOT, MAKING A LUCKY LANDING IN THE TREETOPS, ARE LOST IN AN IMPENETRABLE CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL--!
THINK THEY'RE FRIENDLY?

THOSE KNIVES DON'T LOOK LIKE CALLING CARDS! WHERE'LL WE --GO--?
JUST--GO!
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FASTER!
I CAN'T GO MUCH FASTER--OR LONGER--
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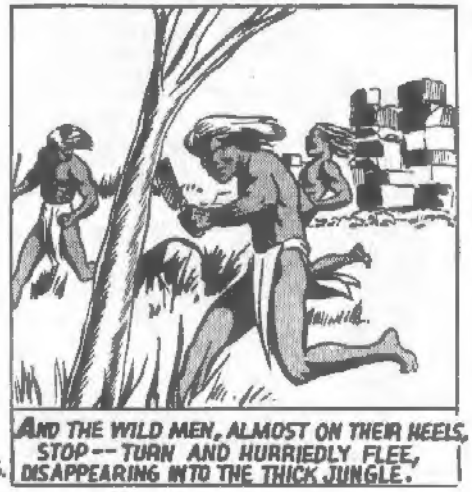
BREATHLESS, EXHAUSTED, THEY REACH THE CRUMBLING ROCKS OF THE ANCIENT INDIAN TEMPLE RUINS.


AND THE WILD MEN, ALMOST ON THEIR HEELS, STOP-- TURN AND HURRIEDLY FLEE, DISAPPEARING INTO THE THICK JUNGLE.

NOW WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY DID THAT?
tomorrow— SORTA SPOOKY

AT LEAST, WE SEEM TO BE SAFE FROM THOSE WILD MEN IN THESE TEMPLE RUINS.
SAFE, UNTIL WE START TO STARVE. WHEN DO WE EAT?

I'M SURE I SAW SMOKE COMING FROM HERE WHEN WE PASSED OVER IT IN THE PLANE. LET'S EXPLORE.
I'M AFRAID YOU WERE SEEING THINGS. THE NATIVES EVIDENTLY DON'T COME NEAR THIS PLACE.

I WONDER WHY? JUST SUPERSTITION? IT'S SORT OF SPOOKY HERE. IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF SOMEONE WERE WATCHING US.

SAY, DIDN'T WE JUST PASS THIS PLACE? I DIDN'T NOTICE THIS OPEN TRAPDOOR BEFORE!
tomorrow—TRAPDOOR—

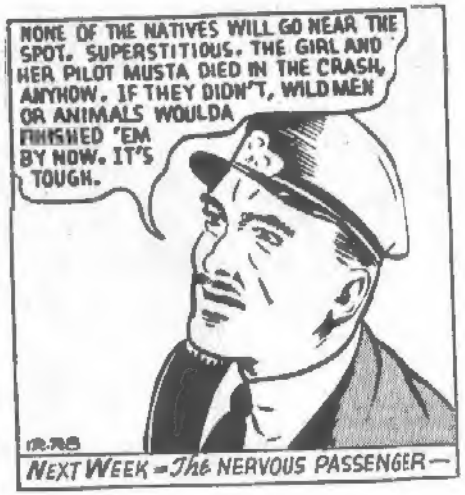
DIANA DESCENDS INTO THE TRAPDOOR OF THE ANCIENT TEMPLE RUINS--THE PILOT WAITS FOR HER-

AND WAITS--AND WAITS...

FRIGHTENED, HE SLOWLY DESCENDS THE ANCIENT STAIRS--

AS HE DESCENDS, THE TRAPDOOR SUDDENLY, SILENTLY--SWINGS DOWN OVER HIM!

THE PHANTOM IS SEARCHING FOR DIANA. HIS TRANSPORT PLANE LANDS FOR MAIL AT A SMALL SEAPORT TOWN, ITS LAST STOP BEFORE CROSSING THE JUNGLES....



NEXT WEEK—The NERVOUS PASSENGER—

BUT, SIR, WON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR HAT AND COAT? WE DON'T LAND FOR FIVE HOURS.
I'M COMFORTABLE, THANK YOU. MAY I HAVE A PARACHUTE?
THE PHANTOM FLIES OVER THE JUNGLE WHERE DIANA WAS LOST.

BUT, SIR, NONE OF THE PASSENGERS WEARS A CHUTE...IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE IN THESE BIG PLANES.
PLEASE BRING ME A PARACHUTE.

GOING OUT FOR SOME AIR?
IT'S FOR A PASSENGER. ALL BUNDLED UP IN HIS HAT AND COAT. SCARED TO DEATH.
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12-30

HE LOOKS LIKE A HE-MAN. BIG AS HOUSE. JUST SHOWS--YOU NEVER CAN TELL.
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM. MAYBE IT'S HIS FIRST FLIGHT.

FEEL BETTER NOW?
YES, THANKS. DIDN'T A PLANE CRASH NEAR HERE LAST WEEK?
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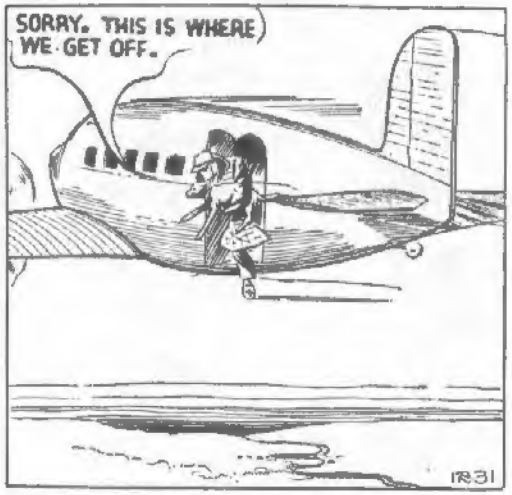
YES, ABOUT HERE. NEAR THOSE RUINS DOWN THERE. IS THAT WHAT WORRIED YOU? DON'T BE NERVOUS. THESE BIG PLANES ARE PERFECTLY SAFE.

PLEASE, SIR. YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR DOG--OR WHATEVER IT IS--IN THE BAGGAGE-ROOM!
COME ON, FELLA.


SORRY. THIS IS WHERE WE GET OFF.
12-31

WHAT DID HE DO?
MAN--JUMPED OUT OF THE PLANE!

Hmm—TOOK HIS DOG WITH HIM! HIS CHUTE WORKED OKAY. WHY IN THUNDER DID HE JUMP OUT?
I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT HE WANTED THE CHUTE BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID!
1-1
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WHO WAS HE?
WE CAN'T GROUND HERE TO GET HIM. I'M AFRAID WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

AND THE CAUSE OF ALL THE EXCITEMENT FLOATS DOWN TO THE DEEP JUNGLE BELOW.

STOP WIGGLING, 'DEVIL'. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

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HE GRATEFULLY SHEDS HIS OUTER CLOTHES, HAPPY TO BE BACK ONCE AGAIN IN HIS FAMILIAR HAUNTS -- THE JUNGLE.

NOW, TO FIND DIANA.
1-R
TOMORROW - PLANE IN THE TREE —

AFTER SEARCHING FOR HOURS, THE PHANTOM FINDS WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR -- DIANA'S PLANE!

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Hmm--HAD A LUCKY LANDING. NO SIGN OF HER--OR PILOT. CHANCES ARE, SHE GOT OUT ALIVE!

AND THE WILD MEN, WITH THEIR GLEAMING MACHETES, WATCH THIS STRANGELY CLAD FIGURE WITH DEADLY CURIOSITY!

I WONDER WHERE DIANA AND HER PILOT WENT? HEY, WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, 'DEVIL'?

1-4
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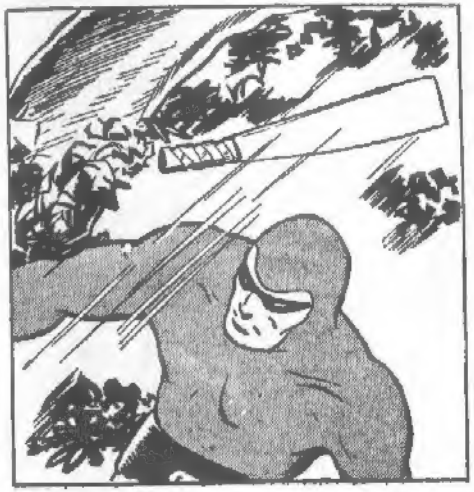
AS 'DEVIL' GIVES A WARNING BARK...



AH, THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE!
NEXT WEEK - THE ANCIENT BEAST IN CHAINS —

The PHANTOM, SEARCHING FOR DIANA, IS TREED BY THE JUNGLE WILD MEN.
DO YOU GENTLEMEN KNOW WHERE DIANA WENT?
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IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION, I SUPPOSE--
--I'LL FIRST HAVE TO ESTABLISH CORDIAL RELATIONS.
1-6
tomorrow-- ENTENTE CORDIALE
THE PHANTOM QUICKLY TAKES UP THE BUSINESS OF MAKING HIS PRESENCE FELT IN THIS NEW JUNGLE-LAND...
1-7
AS ONE OF THE ATTACKERS SWINGS HIS GLEAMING MACHETE AT THE PHANTOM'S UNPROTECTED BACK, "DEVIL" LEAPS INTO THE BATTLE...
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THREE MORE OF THE BLOOD-THIRSTY KNIFE-SWINGERS CHARGE INTO THE FRAY...
THE ODDS ARE SIX TO ONE--HIS OPPONENTS ARE WIRY JUNGLE WARRIORS, HEEDLESS OF THEIR OWN LIVES AND ANYBODY ELSE'S--AND THE PHANTOM KNOWS HE'S IN FOR A FIGHT!
THE PHANTOM STAYS CLOSE AMONG THE WILD MEN--HAMPERING THEIR DEADLY SWINGING MACHETES--HIS FIST DARTS ABOUT WITH THE FORCE OF A TRIP-HAMMER, AND WHERE IT LANDS, A SECOND BLOW IS NOT NEEDED!
HE IS FAR FROM HIS OWN BENGALI, WHERE MILLIONS OF JUNGLE PEOPLE PAY HIM HOMAGE! THESE PRIMITIVE MEN ARE NEW AND STRANGE TO HIM...
BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THE MINDS OF ALL PRIMITIVE MEN WHO WANT A FIGHT! DON'T ARGUE-- FIGHT FIRST AND ARGUE AFTERWARDS!
NOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, GENTLEMEN, WE WILL HAVE A QUIET TALK.
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1-8

THE WILD MEN, LOOKING FEARFULLY AT THIS BEING WHO HAS DESCENDED UPON THEM WITH THE FURY OF A STORM, SEE HE HAS GUNS WHICH HE HAS NOT TOUCHED -- THEIR FEAR DEEPENS INTO AWE ...

NOW, YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE THE GIRL AND THE MAN HAVE GONE.
THE PHANTOM SPEAKS TO THEM IN ALL THE VARIETY OF LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS THAT HE KNOWS --BUT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIM ...

1-9
HE USES SIMPLE SIGN LANGUAGE. THEY UNDERSTAND THIS --BUT STARE AT HIM WITHOUT MOVING.

THEY KNOW WHERE DIANA WENT-- BUT THEY'RE AFRAID TO SHOW ME. YOU WOULDN'T THINK THESE WILDCATS FEARED ANYTHING, SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IN THESE WOODS!
tomorrow—THE ANCIENT BEAST IN CHAINS—

WHEN NO ONE OF THE WILD MEN WILL LEAD HIM TO DIANA --THE PHANTOM FORCES THE WHOLE GROUP TO SHOW THE WAY...

THEY STOP AT THE EDGE OF THE INDIAN TEMPLE RUINS, TORN BETWEEN THEIR FEAR OF THE PHANTOM AND THEIR FEAR OF WHAT LIES AHEAD...

The PHANTOM SMILES--THESE ARE THE USUAL WILD, TWISTED SUPERSTITIONS OF PRIMITIVE MINDS, BUT IF DIANA'S AMONG THESE RUINS, IT'S TIME TO FIND HER...

1-10
BENEATH THE RUINS, THEY SAY, LIES AN ANCIENT BEAST IN CHAINS. A BEAST THAT WAILS AND SHAKES THE EARTH!

THE NATIVES TELL THE PHANTOM THAT AN ANCIENT BEAST LIES IN CHAINS BENEATH THE RUINS OF THE OLD INDIAN TEMPLE. SOMETIMES IT WAILS AND SHAKES THE EARTH—

SOMETIMES IT POKES A LONG ANTENNA FROM THE EARTH, LIKE A GREAT INSECT! AND IT IS FED BY A HUGE BIRD FROM THE SKY.

1-11
THEY ALL BABBLE AT ONCE, TRYING TO EXPLAIN. HE QUIETS THEM, AND USING SIMPLE SIGN LANGUAGE, PIECES THEIR STORIES TOGETHER.

SUDDENLY, THERE IS AN UNMISTAKABLE RUMBLING IN THE EARTH--AND A LOUD, EERIE SOUND COMES FROM THE DESOLATE RUINS--

The WILD MEN TELL THE PHANTOM OF AN ANCIENT CHAINED BEAST BENEATH THE INDIAN TEMPLE RUINS -- IT WAILS AND SHAKES THE EARTH...
NONE OF THEM HAS EVER SEEN THIS BEAST -- NONE EVER WANTS TO! SUDDENLY, THERE IS A LOUD, EERIE SOUND FROM THE RUINS, RUMBLINGS IN THE EARTH -- AND STRANGE FLICKERING LIGHTS...

The NATIVES FLEE -- THE RUMBLINGS INCREASE TO A BEDLAM OF NOISE -- THE LIGHTS FLICKER STRANGELY, SIZZLING, BURSTING, EXPLODING --
AS THE PHANTOM SLOWLY WALKS INTO THE CENTER OF IT! WHAT GOES ON HERE?
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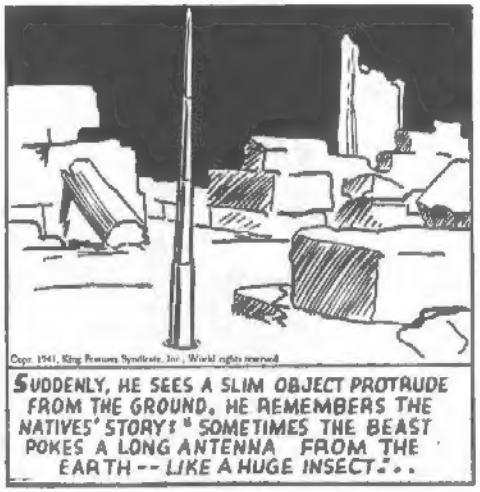
DIANA...
AMID THE FURY OF SOUND AND WILD LIGHTS, THE PHANTOM CALLS OUT. INSTANTLY, THERE IS DARKNESS AND QUIET...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SUDDENLY, HE SEES A SLIM OBJECT PROTRUDE FROM THE GROUND. HE REMEMBERS THE NATIVES' STORY: " SOMETIMES THE BEAST POKES A LONG ANTENNA FROM THE EARTH -- LIKE A HUGE INSECT..."

HE RACES TO IT -- BUT IT DISAPPEARS BACK INTO THE EARTH BEFORE HE CAN REACH IT!

'THIS IS THE STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER RUN INTO! BUT ALL MYSTERIES USUALLY HAVE A SIMPLE EXPLANATION. MEANWHILE -- WHERE IS DIANA?
1-14
tomorrow = The TRAPDOOR

DIANA... DIANA...
THE PHANTOM SEARCHES THE MYSTERIOUS RUINS OF THE INDIAN TEMPLE...

'DEVIL' SUDDENLY BARKS...

TRAPDOOR! I PASSED BY HERE BEFORE. I DIDN'T NOTICE IT THEN --

A PRINT OF A SHOE IN THE DUST! SMALL -- SHOWING A HIGH HEEL! IT MUST BE -- DIANA'S!
tomorrow = INTO THE TRAP
1-15

WAIT HERE, "DEVIL"--DIANA WENT THIS WAY!
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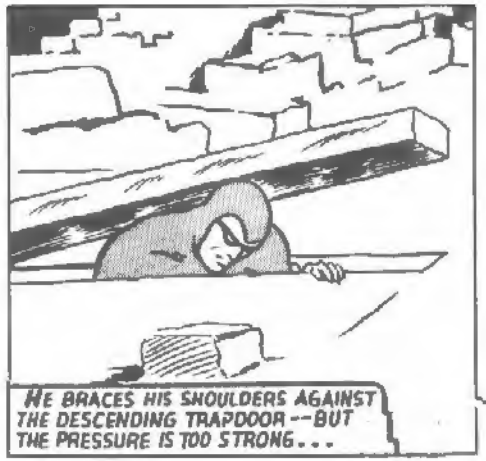
EH!


HE BRACES HIS SHOULDERS AGAINST THE DESCENDING TRAPDOOR--BUT THE PRESSURE IS TOO STRONG...

1-16
"DEVIL" PAWS ANXIOUSLY AT THE CLOSED TRAPDOOR--THE PHANTOM IS GONE! tomorrow-GREAT ROUND EYES-

-NEED A DERRICK TO LIFT THAT TRAPDOOR--IT SEEMS TO HAVE LOCKED!
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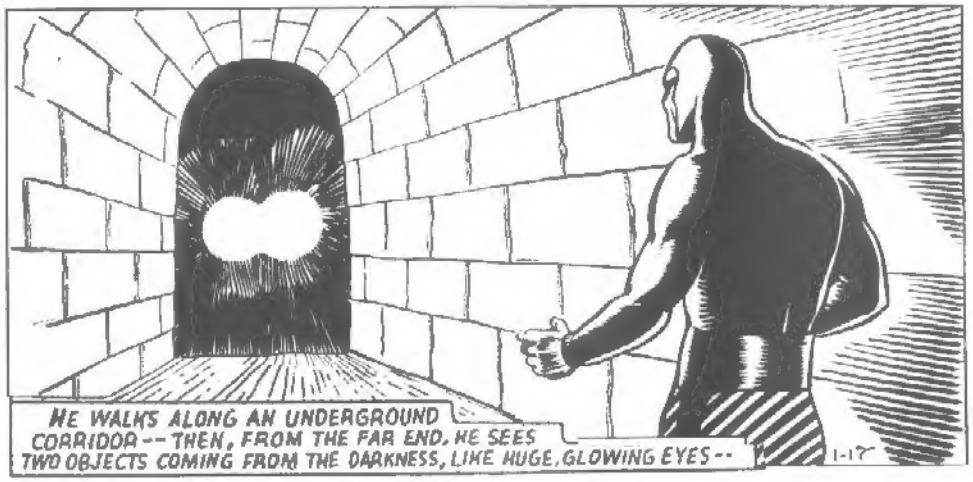
WELL, I WALKED RIGHT INTO IT--BUT IF DIANA CAME THIS WAY--IT'S WHERE I WANT TO GO---


HE WALKS ALONG AN UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR--THEN, FROM THE FAR END, HE SEES TWO OBJECTS COMING FROM THE DARKNESS, LIKE HUGE, GLOWING EYES--
1-17

AS TWO OBJECTS GLOW THRU THE DARK CORRIDOR, LIKE HUGE EYES, THE PHANTOM WONDERS: COULD THE INCREDIBLE TALE OF THE WILDMEN ABOUT THE ANCIENT CHAINED BEAST BE TRUE?

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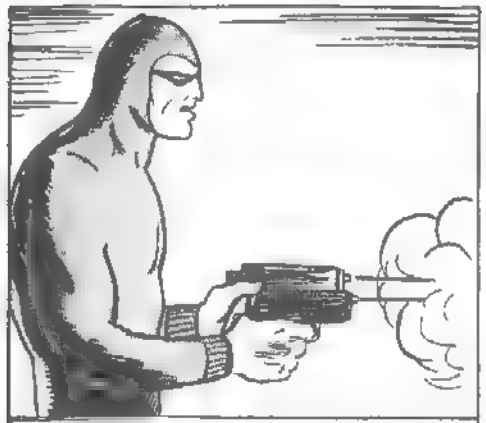
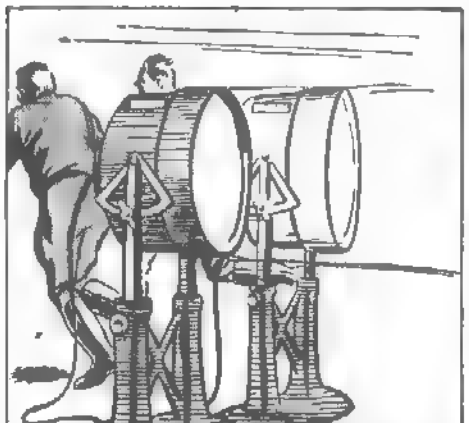
1-18
WHATEVER IT IS, HE'S READY FOR IT--170...

AS HE CREEPS TOWARD THE GLOWING OBJECTS, HE IS SUDDENLY BLINDED BY BRILLIANT LIGHT-

--AND HIS GUNS ROAR--AT THE UNKNOWN!
NEXT WEEK-MYSTERIES EXPLAINED-

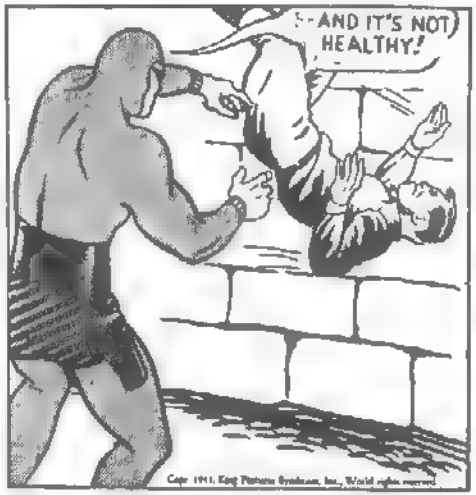


BENEATH THE ANCIENT INDIAN TEMPLE, BRILLIANT LIGHTS SHINE ON THE PHANTOM. HIS GUNS ROAR-



AND AT THE OTHER END OF THE CORRIDOR-

SUDDENLY, A GUN IS POKED INTO HIS BACK

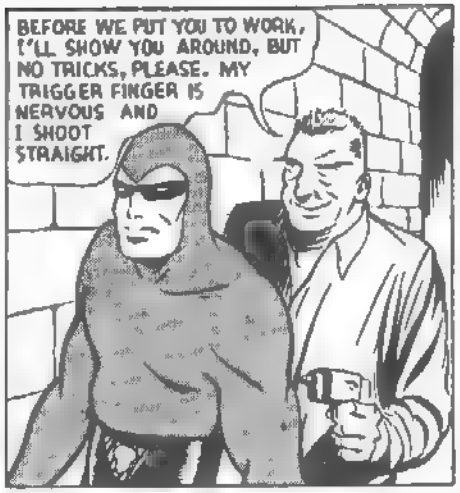


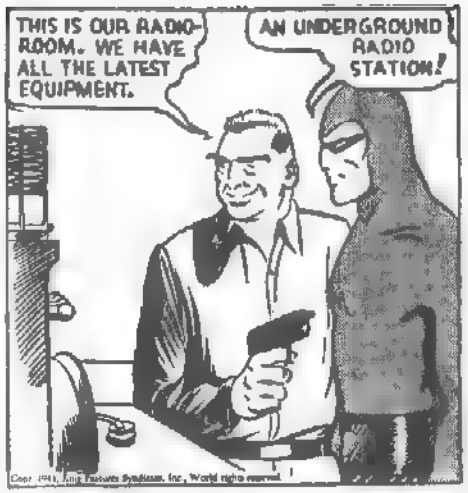
THE PHANTOM'S VOICE ECHOES IN THE UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR...

A DEEP, MALE VOICE SUDDENLY ANSWERS FROM BEYOND THE ARCHWAY---

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE IN THE CELLARS OF THE ANCIENT INDIAN TEMPLE?

I SUPPOSE YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THE CELLARS OF THIS INDIAN TEMPLE.
THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY.


BEFORE WE PUT YOU TO WORK, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND, BUT NO TRICKS, PLEASE. MY TRIGGER FINGER IS NERVOUS AND I SHOOT STRAIGHT.

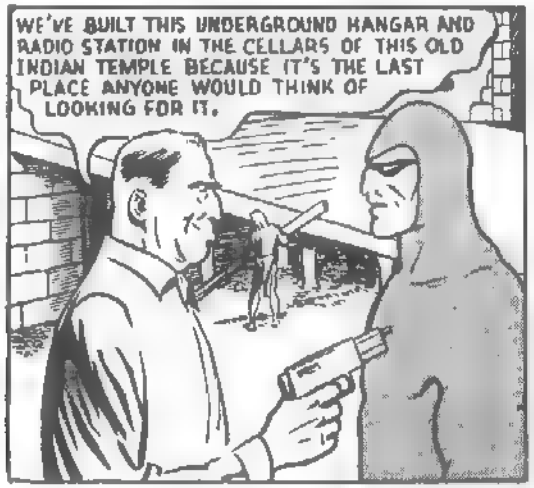

THIS IS OUR RADIO-ROOM. WE HAVE ALL THE LATEST EQUIPMENT.
AN UNDERGROUND RADIO STATION!

THIS ANTENNA IS COLLAPSIBLE, LIKE A TELESCOPE. WHEN WE'RE SENDING OR RECEIVING MESSAGES, WE PUSH IT ABOVE GROUND.
SO THAT'S WHAT THE NATIVES THOUGHT WAS THE ANTENNA OF A GREAT INSECT!
TOMORROW—AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WE'RE BUILDING AN UNDERGROUND AIRPLANE HANGAR. A RAMP IS BEING BUILT OVER THERE. SOMETIMES, WE HAVE TO DYNAMITE AWAY SOME ROCKS, BUT OTHERWISE, THIS HUGE TEMPLE CELLAR IS IDEAL FOR THE PURPOSE.

DYNAMITE. SO THAT'S WHAT THE NATIVES THOUGHT WAS AN "ANCIENT BEAST SHAKING THE EARTH!"
EXACTLY. AND TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM HERE, WE ENCOURAGE THEIR SUPERSTITIONS WITH WEIRD LIGHTS AND NOISES, BUT WE'LL SOON BE READY.

READY FOR WHAT? WHY HAVE YOU BUILT THIS UNDER-GROUND RADIO AND HANGAR? WHO ARE YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED. WELL, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
TOMORROW—EXPLANATIONS


WE'VE BUILT THIS UNDERGROUND HANGAR AND RADIO STATION IN THE CELLARS OF THIS OLD INDIAN TEMPLE BECAUSE IT'S THE LAST PLACE ANYONE WOULD THINK OF LOOKING FOR IT.

WE'RE PREPARING A WHOLE SERIES OF HANGARS LIKE THIS. WHEN MY HOMELAND IS READY TO INVADE THIS HEMISPHERE, THIS WILL BE READY FOR THEM TO USE!

SO THAT'S IT! WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN TIME TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO ME?
WHY? BECAUSE I'M PROUD OF OUR WORK! WE'VE REALLY DONE A REMARKABLE JOB HERE, CONSIDERING THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

BESIDES, IT DOESN'T HURT TO LET YOU KNOW. YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HERE, ANYHOW.
NEXT WEEK—THE SLAVES

BIG, THE PLANE'S COMING.
COME ALONG. YOU'LL SEE HOW WE GET OUR SUPPLIES.

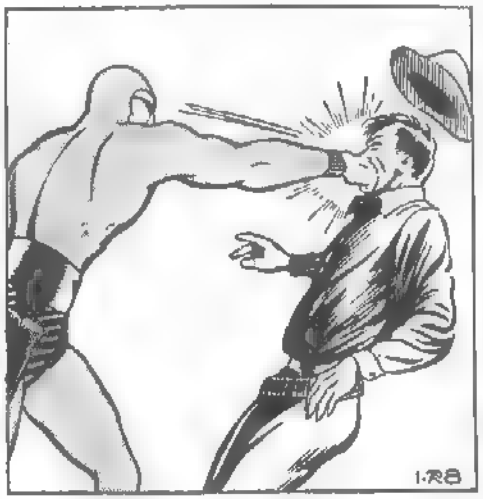
FROM THE TOP OF THE RAMP, THE PHANTOM SEES A LARGE PACKAGE FALL FROM THE PLANE—

—AND HE REMEMBERS THE NATIVES' STORY OF THE "GREAT BIRD THAT DROPPED FOOD TO THE ANCIENT BEAST IN THE TEMPLE."

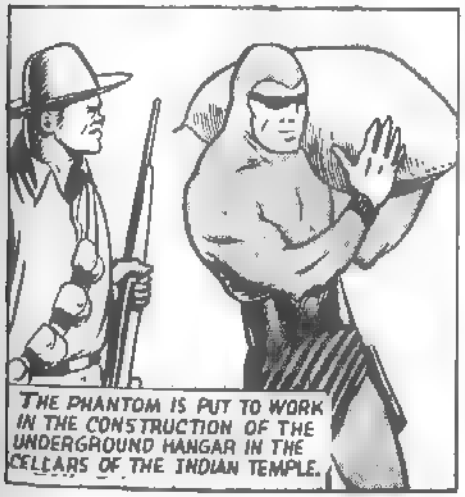
TAKE A DEEP BREATH OF THIS FRESH AIR. IT'S THE LAST ONE YOU'LL EVER HAVE.
1-27
tomorrow—THE MASK

LABOR IS SCARCE HERE, SO WE'RE PUTTING YOU TO WORK. YOU WILL LIVE UNTIL THE WORK IS FINISHED--AND THEN---
SAY, BIG--WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THAT MASK HE'S WEARING--AND THE OUTFIT?

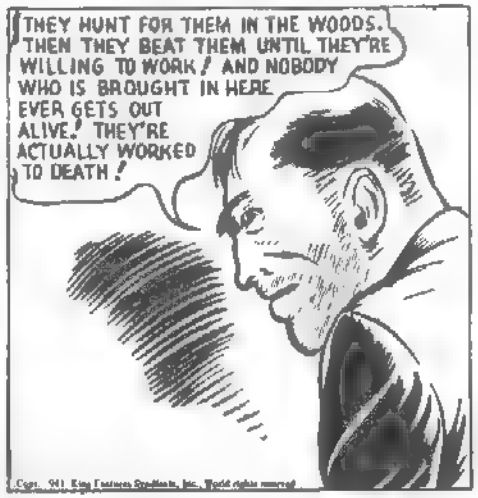
HE DON'T NEED THAT MONKEY BUSINESS DOWN HERE. I'LL TAKE OFF HIS MASK—


1-28

PUT THAT GUN DOWN, FOOL! WE NEED A STRONG WORKER LIKE HIM. AFTER THE WORK IS FINISHED, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR TURN!
TOMORROW—PHANTOM SLAVE


THE PHANTOM IS PUT TO WORK IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR IN THE CELLARS OF THE INDIAN TEMPLE.

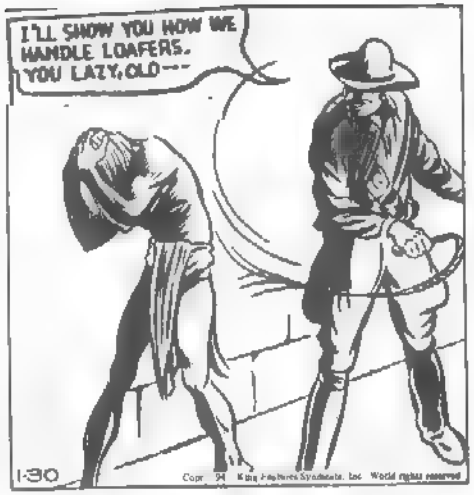
I'M MISS PALMER'S PILOT. SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU---
I HAVEN'T DONE EITHER OF YOU MUCH GOOD, HAVE I? WHERE DID THEY GET ALL THESE NATIVE WORKERS?


THEY HUNT FOR THEM IN THE WOODS. THEN THEY BEAT THEM UNTIL THEY'RE WILLING TO WORK! AND NOBODY WHO IS BROUGHT IN HERE EVER GETS OUT ALIVE! THEY'RE ACTUALLY WORKED TO DEATH!

STOP THAT TALKING OVER THERE! GET TO WORK!
1-29
tomorrow—THE OLD NATIVE

HERE, POP, THAT'S TOO HEAVY FOR YOU. BETTER LET ME CARRY THAT--
IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR, THE PHANTOM FELLS A GUARD WHO ATTEMPTED TO WHIP AN AGED NATIVE. HE DASHES UP THE RAMP, TO THE SURFACE...

EXHAUSTED, THE OLD MAN RESTS FOR A MOMENT-

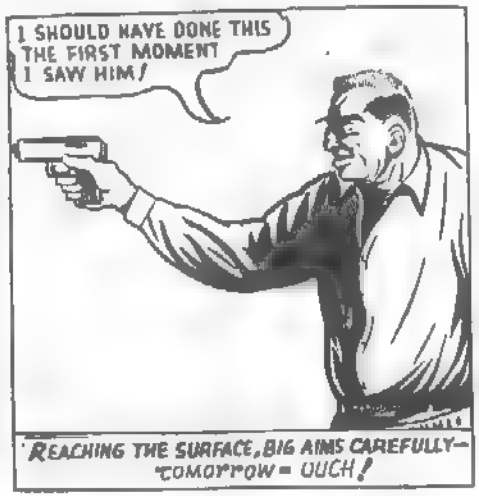

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE HANDLE LOAFERS. YOU LAZY, OLD---
1-30

IN A SUDDEN FURY, THE PHANTOM THROWS CAUTION TO THE WINDS, IGNORING THE OTHER ARMED GUARDS....

WORKING IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR, THE PHANTOM AIDS A WEAK, OLD NATIVE WHO STAGGERS UNDER HIS LOAD --

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
1-31

PLACE IS SURROUNDED.
OUTSIDE, HE SEES TWO OTHER GUARDS COMING AT HIM ---


I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW HIM!
REACHING THE SURFACE, BIG AIMS CAREFULLY— TOMORROW = OUCH!

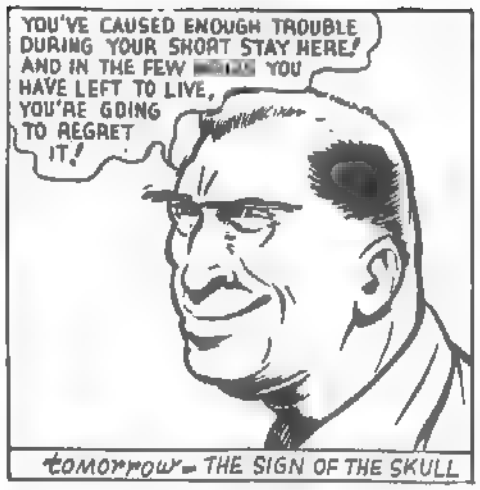
WHAT THE-- OUCH!
AS BIG DRAWS A BEAD ON THE PHANTOM, A GRAY FORM SPRINGS AT HIM! IT IS "DEVIL", WHO HAS ROAMED THE RUINS SEARCHING FOR THE PHANTOM!

A WOLF! SHOOT HIM DOWN!

WE'RE TAKING NO MORE CHANCES WITH YOU! YOU DIE AT ONCE!
NEXT WEEK - THE SEALED CHAMBER

The PHANTOM TRIES TO ESCAPE FROM THE UNDER-GROUND HANGAR BENEATH THE INDIAN TEMPLE, BUT IS CAPTURED!
RUN, DEVIL, RUN!
SHOOT HIM DOWN!
R-3
Copr. 1941 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
"DEVIL" STREAKS AWAY AT HIS MASTER'S COMMAND.

BLASTED WOLF, ALMOST TOOK MY HAND OFF! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A WOLF DOING IN THESE WOODS?
HE'S MINE. TOO BAD HE DIDN'T GET YOU A LITTLE HIGHER.


YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE DURING YOUR SHORT STAY HERE! AND IN THE FEW [redacted] YOU HAVE LEFT TO LIVE, YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET IT!
tomorrow - THE SIGN OF THE SKULL

WHAT YOU GOT ON YOUR JAW?
I DON'T KNOW, BIG! IT'S WHERE THAT GUY HIT ME.! - IT'S LIKE -- GETTING KICKED -- BY A MULE --!

THAT'S A SKULL MARK ON HIS JAW! LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS!

The DEATH'S HEAD RING -- THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM!
R-4

WELL, MR. PHANTOM, I PROMISED YOU'D REGRET COMING HERE. I HAVE A VERY INGENIOUS [redacted] FOR GETTING RID OF YOU!
I DON'T DOUBT THAT.
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TOMORROW - THE METHOD

DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO TO ME?
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUT IN THIS LITTLE STONE CHAMBER.
R-5
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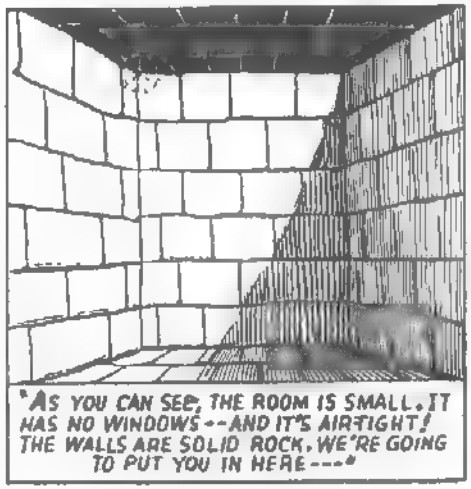
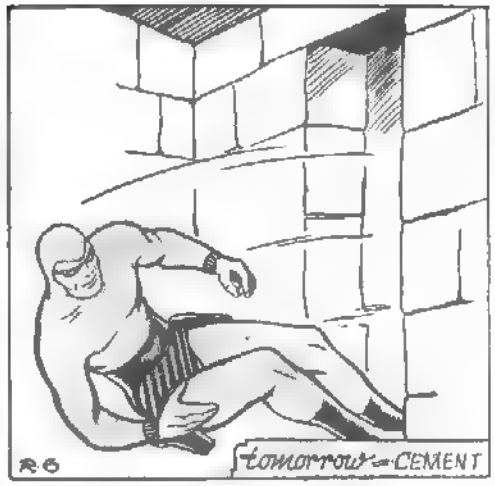

"AS YOU CAN SEE, THE ROOM IS SMALL. IT HAS NO WINDOWS -- AND IT'S AIRTIGHT! THE WALLS ARE SOLID ROCK. WE'RE GOING TO PUT YOU IN HERE ---"

- AND THEN, WE'RE GOING TO WALL-UP THE DOORWAY WITH CEMENT. YOU WON'T LAST LONG ENOUGH TO STARVE, BECAUSE YOU'LL SUFFOCATE IN A FEW HOURS!
tomorrow - DIANA

I THOUGHT THE LADY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.
DIANA!

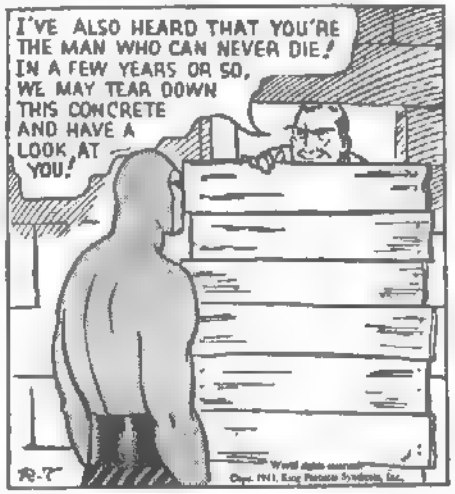
DARLING--THEY TOLD ME WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO!
I'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, DARLING.

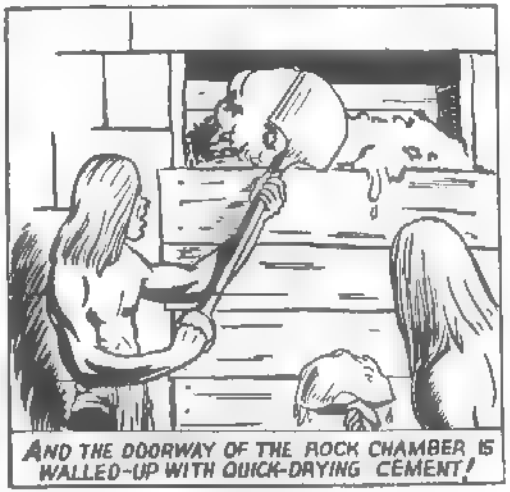
THIS IS YOUR LAST TIGHT SPOT! THROW HIM IN AND GET THE WORK STARTED!


R6
tomorrow—CEMENT

AS THE WOODEN FRAMEWORK FOR THE CEMENT IS BUILT IN THE DOORWAY OF THE SMALL ROCK CHAMBER...

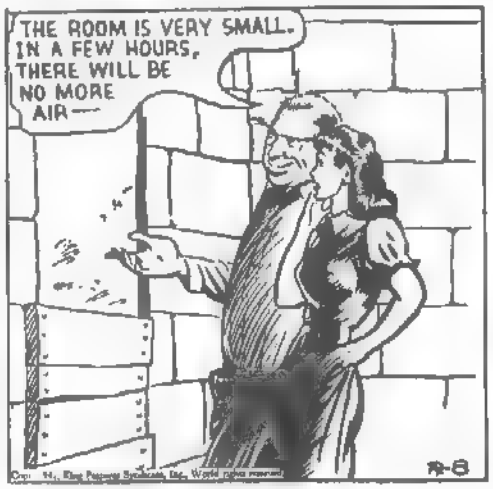
AS SOON AS THIS IS FINISHED, WE'RE GOING TO HUNT THAT WOLF OF YOURS. MY GUARDS NEED A LITTLE SPORT.


I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT YOU'RE THE MAN WHO CAN NEVER DIE! IN A FEW YEARS OR SO, WE MAY TEAR DOWN THIS CONCRETE AND HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!
R-7


AND THE DOORWAY OF THE ROCK CHAMBER IS WALLED-UP WITH QUICK-DRYING CEMENT!

HAVE THE WOOD TORN DOWN. THE CEMENT IS DRY BY NOW.

L HARD AS ROCK!

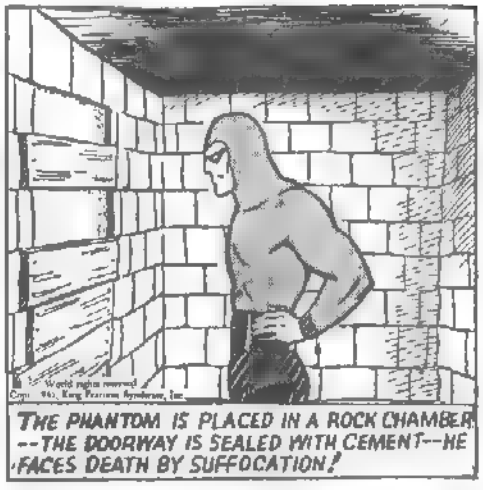

THE ROOM IS VERY SMALL. IN A FEW HOURS, THERE WILL BE NO MORE AIR—
R-8

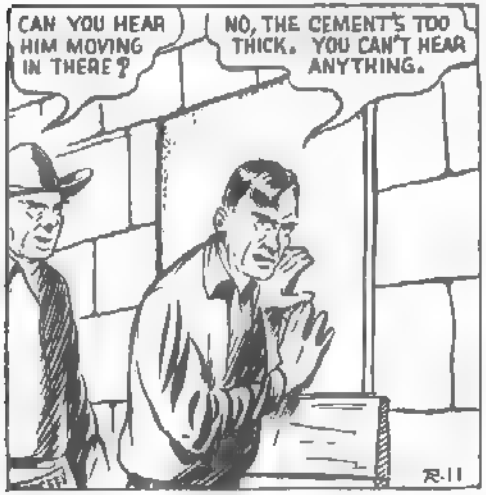
INSIDE, THE PHANTOM PRIES OFF A BOARD FROM THE INNER FRAMEWORK--TO FIND THE CEMENT SOLID. HE IS SEALED IN--DOOMED TO SLOW SUFFOCATION!

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR.
SEARCHING FOR DIANA IN A CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE, THE PHANTOM COMES TO THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT INDIAN TEMPLE WHICH THE NATIVES AVOID..

THE PHANTOM FINDS DIANA -- AND MORE! ENEMY AGENTS HAVE A SECRET RADIO STATION IN THE CELLARS OF THE INDIAN TEMPLE---

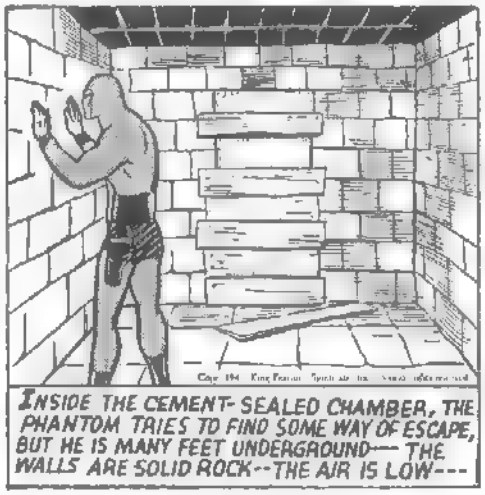
R-10
-- AN UNDERGROUND AIRPLANE HANGAR IS BEING BUILT BENEATH THE RUINS IN PREPARATION FOR AN INVASION BY ENEMY POWERS!


THE PHANTOM IS PLACED IN A ROCK CHAMBER --THE DOORWAY IS SEALED WITH CEMENT--HE FACES DEATH BY SUFFOCATION!

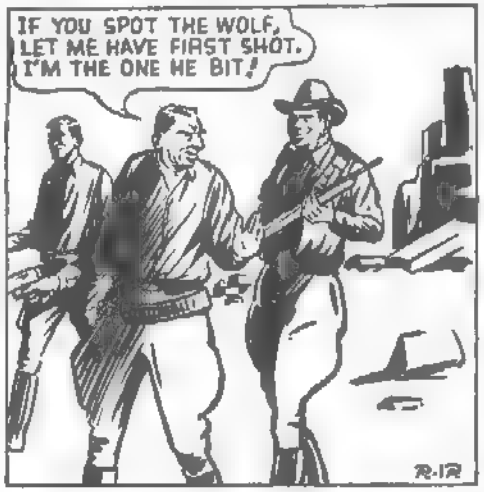

CAN YOU HEAR HIM MOVING IN THERE?
NO, THE CEMENT'S TOO THICK. YOU CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
R-11

LET HIM OUT-- YOU HORRIBLE--
HEY--GRAB HER!

WILD-CAT--SHE SCRATCHED ME! LOCK HER UP! IF SHE TRIES THAT AGAIN--WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CHAMBER FOR HER!

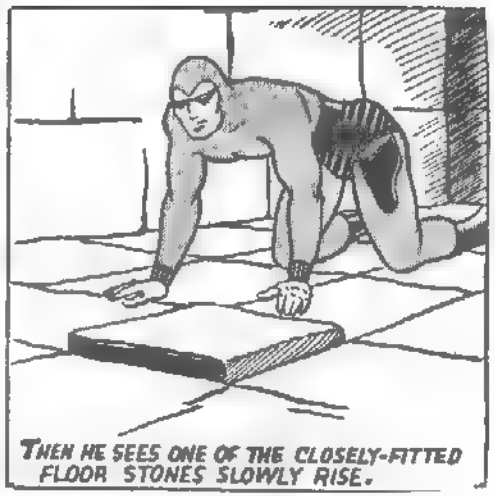

INSIDE THE CEMENT-SEALED CHAMBER, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO FIND SOME WAY OF ESCAPE, BUT HE IS MANY FEET UNDERGROUND--- THE WALLS ARE SOLID ROCK--THE AIR IS LOW---

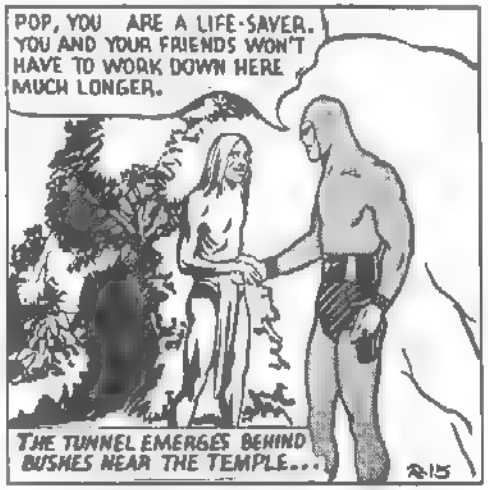
NOW THAT THE PHANTOM IS FINISHED-- HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HUNT TO GET THAT WOLF THAT NIPPED ME?
GREAT IDEA, 'BIG'!


IF YOU SPOT THE WOLF, LET ME HAVE FIRST SHOT. I'M THE ONE HE BIT!
R-12

NO WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE--
IN THE CEMENT-SEALED CHAMBER, THE PHANTOM GIVES UP HOPE OF ESCAPE--A FEW HOURS PASS...

LOOKS LIKE--THIS IS-- THE END---
NO AIR CAN ENTER THE CHAMBER-- BREATHING BECOMES DIFFICULT-- HE BEGINS TO GASP FOR AIR---





NEXT WEEK—THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, POP. I'VE GOT WORK TO DO. THEY'RE HUNTING "DEVIL"---

--AND HUNTING'S A GAME THAT TWO CAN PLAY!
R-17

WHERE IS THAT BLAMED WOLF!
DON'T WORRY-- WE'LL FIND HIM!

AND "DEVIL", THE OBJECT OF THE HUNT, LIES PANTING BEHIND A ROCK. HE KNOWS HE'S BEING HUNTED --- BUT REMAINS NEAR THE RUINS, WAITING FOR HIS MASTER. . .

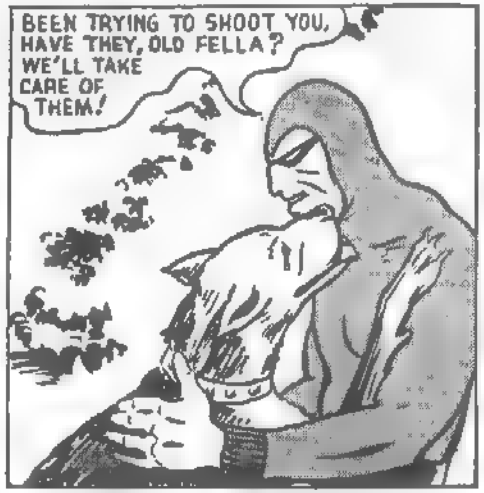
THERE GOES THE WOLF!

ROUTED FROM HIS HIDING-PLACE-- "DEVIL" FLASHES OVER THE ROCKS---

AFTER HIM!
HE WENT THIS WAY!
R-18

FRANTIC, WITH THE FEAR OF ALL HUNTED ANIMALS --"DEVIL" SCURRIES UNDER A BUSH. HE COULD EASILY RUN AWAY--BUT HE MUST WAIT FOR HIS MASTER! WHERE IS HIS MASTER? WHERE?

WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE HUNTERS CLOSE BEHIND HIM, "DEVIL" DASHES ON MADLY--THEN SUDDENLY, HE HEARS A FAMILIAR WHISTLE. . . .


BEEN TRYING TO SHOOT YOU, HAVE THEY, OLD FELLA? WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!

SPREAD OUT, BOYS. THE FIRST ONE WHO SEES THE WOLF CAN SHOOT HIM.
HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN IN YEARS!
R-19

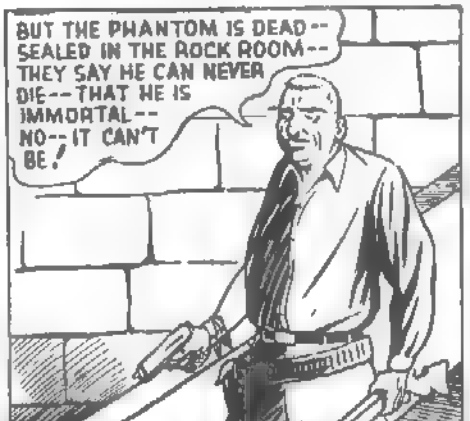
UHH-H-

AS THE SECOND MEMBER OF THE WOLF HUNTING PARTY STALKS THRU THE WOODS NEAR THE INDIAN RUINS...

"BIG" FINDS THE FIRST GUARD...

--AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER, FINDS THE SECOND GUARD...

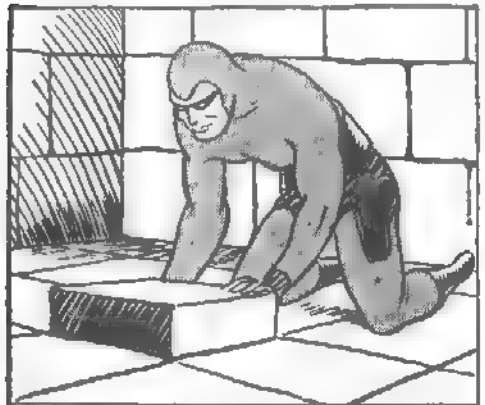
TWO OF THE GUARDS ARE FOUND UNCONSCIOUS--WITH THE SIGN OF THE SKULL—THE PHANTOM'S MARK-ON THEIR JAWS...



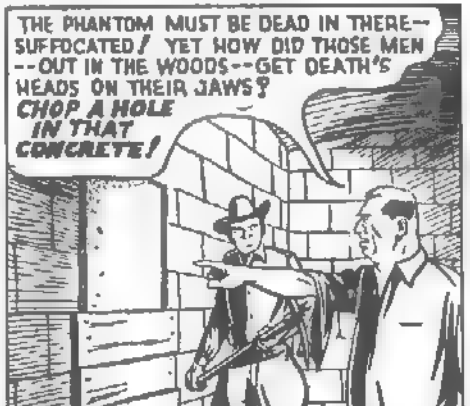
THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE SECRET TUNNEL—

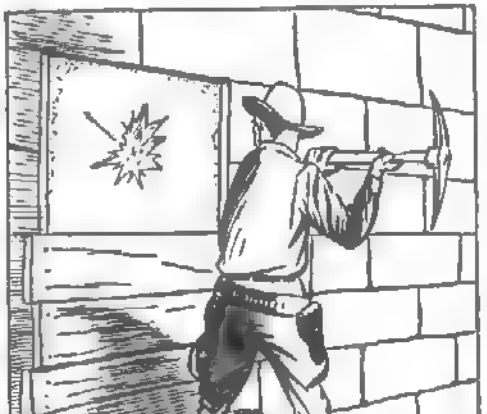
--AND CLIMBS BACK INTO THE SEALED ROCK CHAMBER!

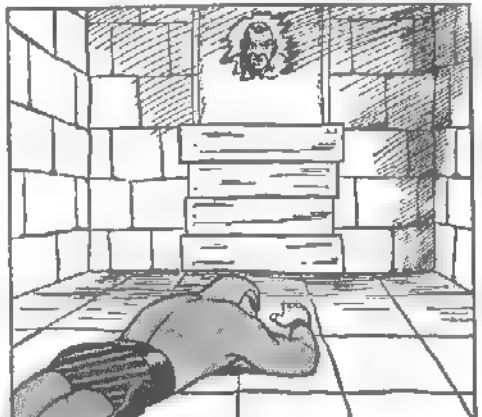
TOMORROW—BIG'S SURPRISE!



RETURNING TO THE ROCK CHAMBER, THE PHANTOM SHOVES THE FLOOR BLOCK BACK INTO PLACE....

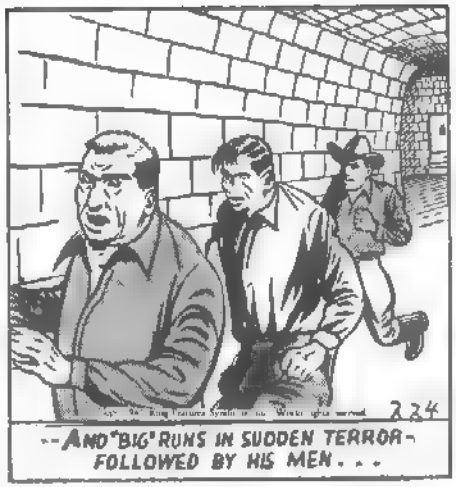




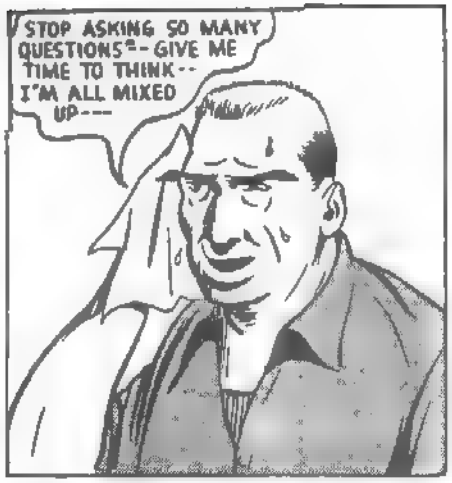


NEXT WEEK—THE GHOST WHO WALKS.

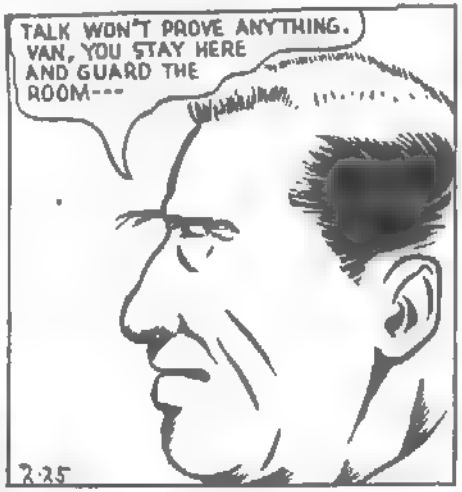
NOT KNOWING THE PHANTOM HAS FOUND A SECRET TUNNEL IN THE SEALED ROOM, THRU WHICH HE EXITED AND THEN RETURNED-- "BIG" STARES--THE PHANTOM LIES AS IF DEAD...


--AND "BIG" RUNS IN SUDDEN TERROR-- FOLLOWED BY HIS MEN...
2-24

IF THE PHANTOM WAS IN THAT ROOM ALL THE TIME--IF THE PHANTOM'S DEAD--
--THEN WHO SOCKED ME OUT IN THE WOODS--AND LEFT THIS MARK ON MY JAW?

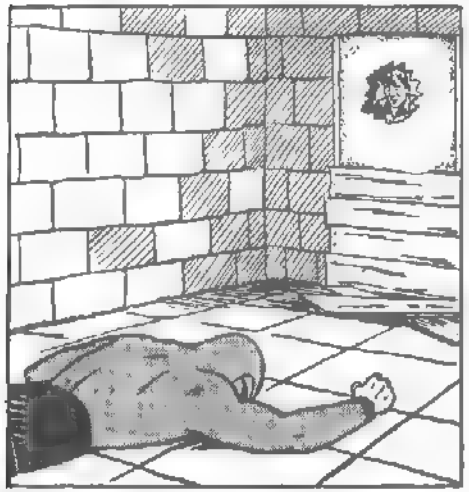

STOP ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS--GIVE ME TIME TO THINK-- I'M ALL MIXED UP---

HOW COULD THE PHANTOM SOCK ME OUT IN THE WOODS--WHEN HE'S BEEN IN THAT ROOM ALL THE TIME---?
BUT HE MUSTA SOCKED YOU, BECAUSE THAT SKULL MARK--


TALK WON'T PROVE ANYTHING. VAN, YOU STAY HERE AND GUARD THE ROOM---
2-25

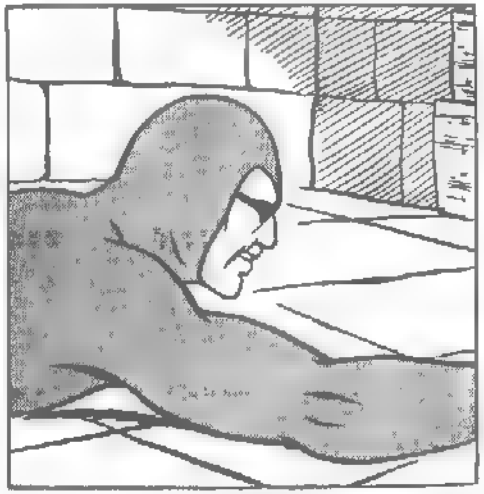
NAW, "BIG". NOT ME. LET SOMEBODY ELSE--
YOU HEARD YOUR ORDERS! I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

TOMORROW--DEAD MAN OR SPOOK?



WHAT'S THE USE OF LEAVING ME HERE--TO GUARD A DEAD MAN--?
2-26

AND IF HE'S NOT DEAD-- THEN I'M GUARDING A SPOOK--!



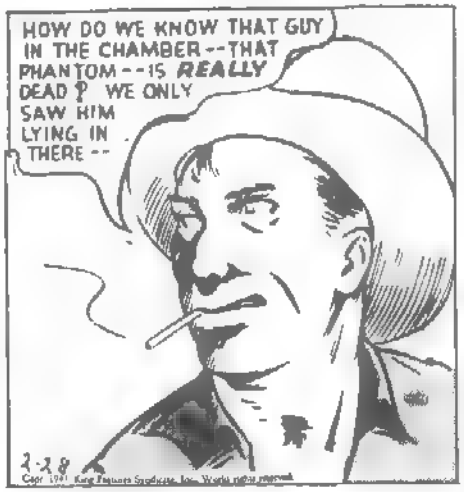
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THAT MARK BEFORE?
YOU MADE ME WATCH --WHEN HE WAS KILLED--WHY DO YOU TORTURE ME LIKE THIS—?

ANSWER ME! WHAT DOES THAT DEATH'S HEAD MEAN?
THAT IS--THAT WAS--THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM—

DIANA--YOU SAW US BURY THE PHANTOM BEHIND A CEMENT WALL--THAT WAS THREE HOURS AGO—AND HE'S STILL THERE—
3-27

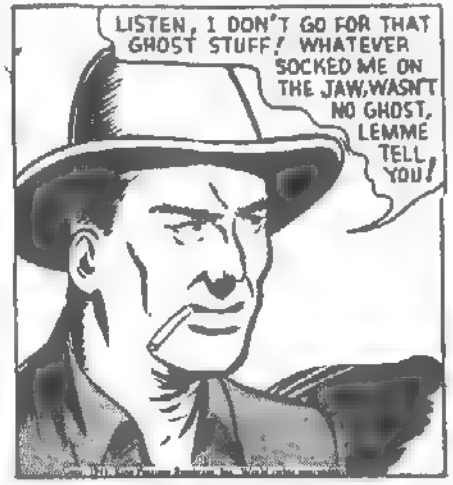
YET--ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, THIS MAN WAS SLUGGED IN THE WOODS--AND HAS THE PHANTOM'S MARK ON HIS JAW! WHY CAN IT BE?

DIANA REALIZES THE PHANTOM HAS FOUND A MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM THE SEALED CHAMBER—SHE HIDES HER JOY...
TELL ME ABOUT THIS--PHANTOM--
THEY CALL HIM--THE GHOST WHO WALKS--THEY SAY THAT HE IS IMMORTAL--
"BIG"--I GOTTA IDEA—


HOW DO WE KNOW THAT GUY IN THE CHAMBER--THAT PHANTOM--IS REALLY DEAD? WE ONLY SAW HIM LYING IN THERE--
3-28

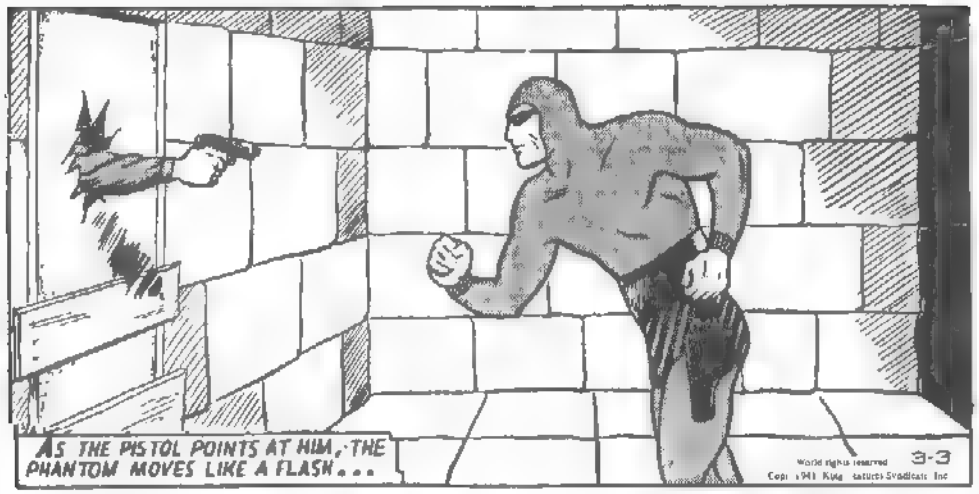
HOW ABOUT PUTTING A FEW BULLETS INTO HIM--AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
GOOD IDEA!
tomorrow—TEST

SURE, "BIG", WE'LL JUST PUT SOME BULLETS IN HIM--AND IF HE DON'T WIGGLE--WE KNOW HE'S DEAD---
YES--BUT IF HE IS DEAD--THEN WHO HIT YOU--?


LISTEN, I DON'T GO FOR THAT GHOST STUFF! WHATEVER SOCKED ME ON THE JAW, WASN'T NO GHOST, LEMME TELL YOU!

PUT SOME BULLETS INTO HIM, VAN!
3-1

CONTINUED—


AS THE PISTOL POINTS AT HIM, THE PHANTOM MOVES LIKE A FLASH...
3-3

IT'S--GOT--ME--!
tomorrow--THE BOARD

IN THE CHAMBER, THE PHANTOM HOLDS VAN'S ARM SECURELY AND QUICKLY TIES VAN'S LOOSE SHIRT SLEEVE AROUND A WOODEN BOARD....

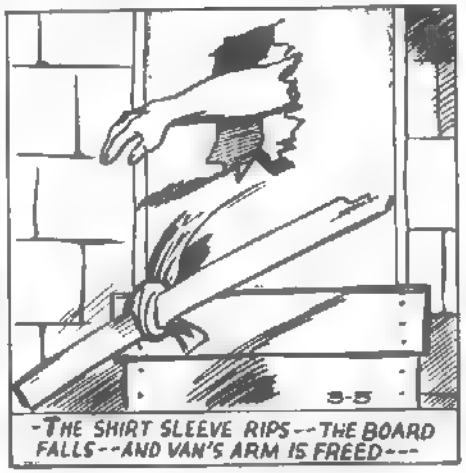
THEN, HURRIEDLY, HE LIFTS THE SECRET FLOOR STONE LEADING TO THE EXIT TUNNEL--

HE'S--HANGING ON TO ME--GET ME OUT OF HERE--!
OUTSIDE, VAN STRUGGLES TO PULL HIS ARM FROM THE HOLE....

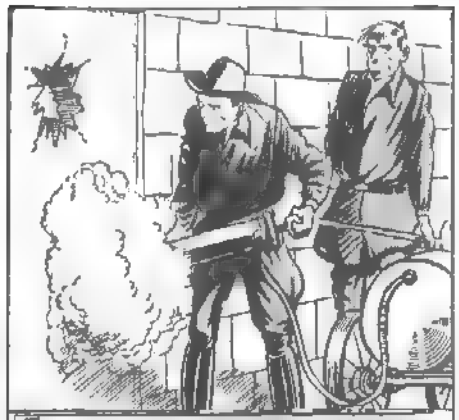
3-4
BUT HIS ARM IS HELD BY THE WOODEN BOARD--GIVING THE PHANTOM TIME TO ESCAPE UNSEEN---!

TYING VAN'S SHIRT SLEEVE TO A BOARD, THE PHANTOM MAKES A QUICK EXIT...

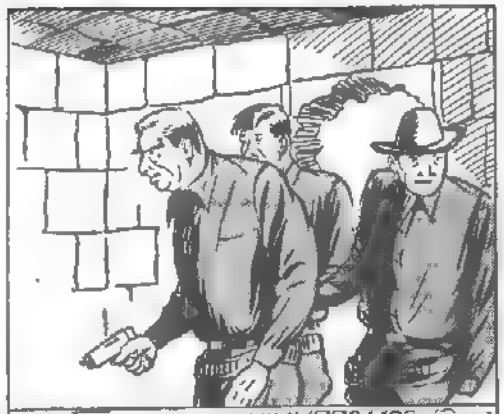
GET ME OUT OF HERE--HE'S HANGING ON TO ME---!
OUTSIDE--THEY TUG FURIOUSLY---


3-5
-THE SHIRT SLEEVE RIPS--THE BOARD FALLS--AND VAN'S ARM IS FREED---

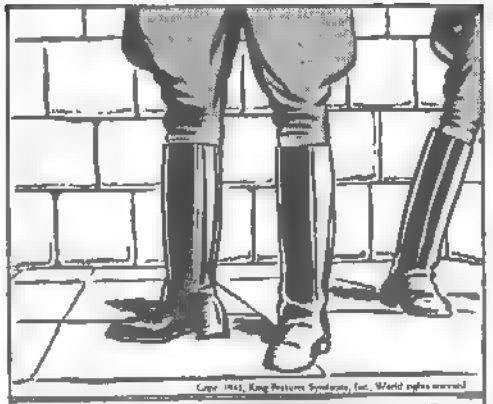
EMPTY--!
INSTANTLY--"BIG" LOOKS INTO THE CHAMBER--THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE PHANTOM! HE HAS APPARENTLY VANISHED THRU SOLID ROCK--AND IN A SPLIT-SECOND!



THE CEMENT PARTITION THAT HAD SEALED THE PHANTOM IN THE ROCK CHAMBER IS RAPIDLY TORN DOWN. . .



"BIG" AND HIS MEN RUSH INTO THE CHAMBER. THEY SEARCH THE SMALL QUARTERS--AS FAR AS THEY KNOW--THERE ARE NO EXITS---



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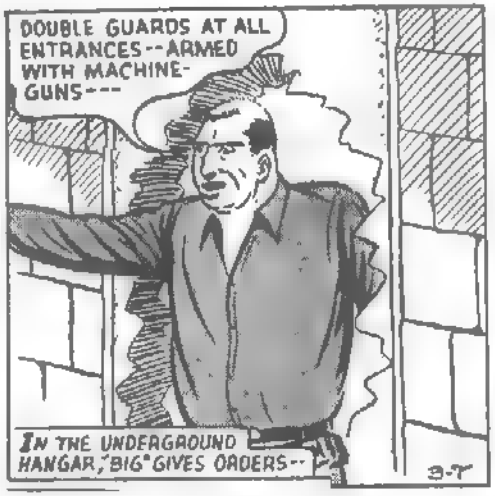
THE HOLE IN THE FLOOR, THRU WHICH THE PHANTOM ESCAPED, IS SO CLEVERLY FITTED AND CONCEALED THAT IT GOES UNNOTICED—

THEY ARE FACED WITH THE INCREDIBLE FACT THAT THE PHANTOM HAS VANISHED THRU SOLID ROCK--WITHIN A SPLIT-SECOND --ALL FEAR A SUDDEN TERROR . . .

THE PHANTOM CREEPS THRU THE LOW SECRET TUNNEL---



IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR, "BIG" GIVES ORDERS--

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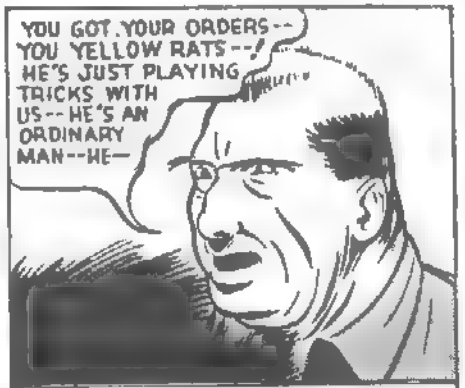
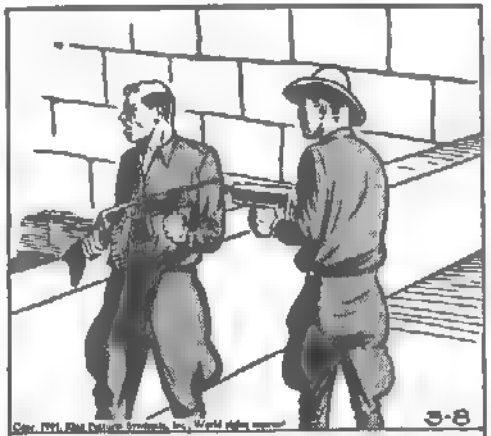


"BIG" BULLIES THEM ON--ONLY HALF-BELIEVING HIS OWN WORDS--TERROR-- IS SPREADING RAPIDLY THRU THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS---

OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL, THE PHANTOM FINDS DEVIL AND THE LITTLE OLD NATIVE AWAITING HIM—



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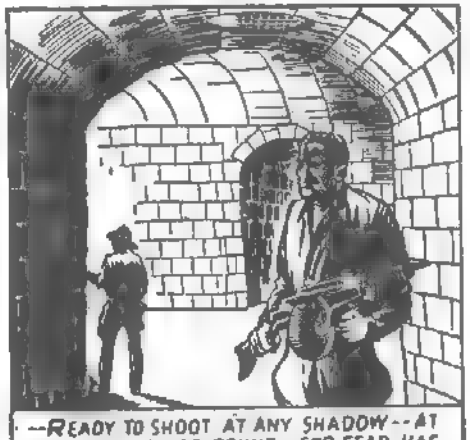
THE PHANTOM IS RIGHT. IN THE UNDER-GROUND HANGAR, ARMED MEN WAIT NERVOUSLY,



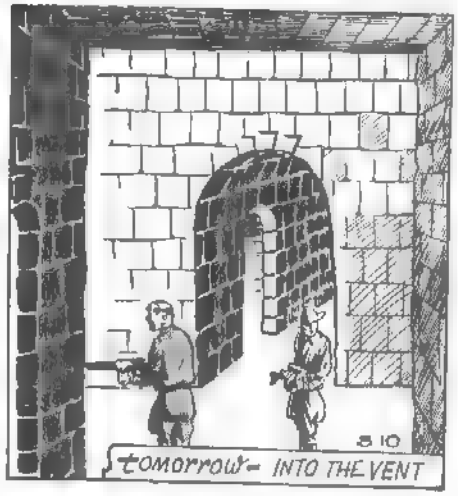
--READY TO SHOOT AT ANY SHADOW--AT ANY UNFAMILIAR SOUND--FOR FEAR HAS SPREAD AMONG THESE HARDENED KILLERS--

--FEAR OF ONE MAN-- THE PHANTOM CLOSE IN!

NOW—WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST, "DEVIL"—TO SAVE DIANA -- AND BREAK UP THE GANG THAT'S BUILDING THE SECRET PLANE HANGAR IN THIS OLD INDIAN TEMPLE.

FIRST, I'VE GOT TO REACH THEIR UNDERGROUND RADIO STATION --AND MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ARMY AUTHORITIES----
E PHANTOM SEARCHES THRU THE TEMPLE RUINS-

--AND FINALLY FINDS WHAT HE IS SEEKING--AN AIR VENT THAT LETS AIR INTO THE CELLARS BELOW-


3-10
tomorrow- INTO THE VENT

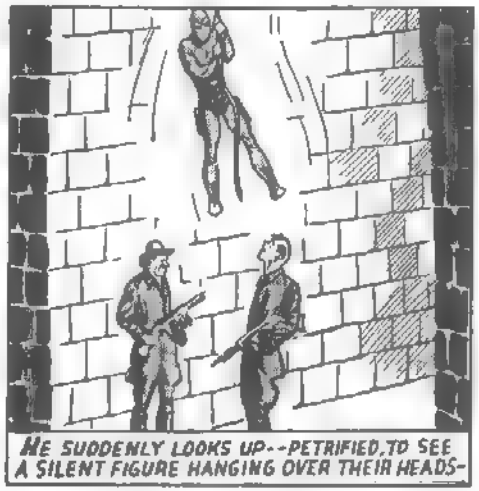
HE PHANTOM GETS A THICK JUNGLE VINE...

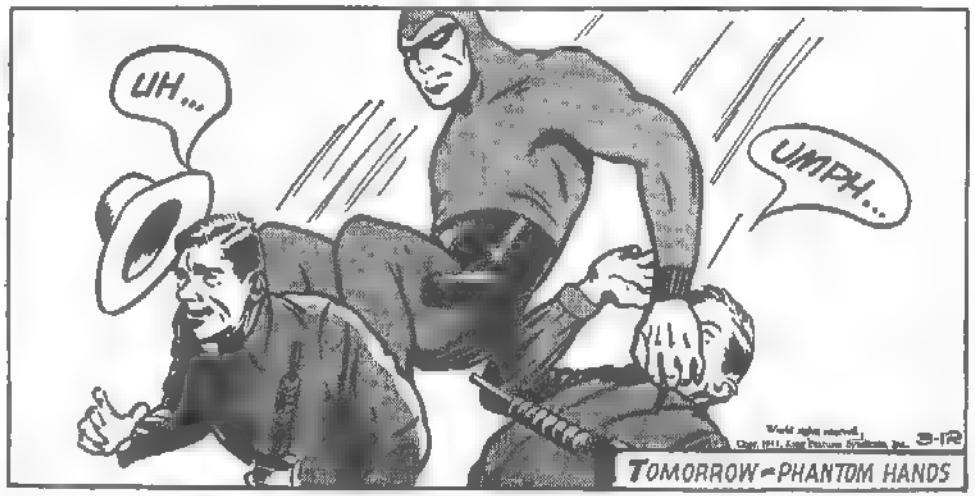
THEN TIES ONE END SECURELY AROUND A HEAVY BOULDER--
3-11

--AND REMOVING THE COVER OF THE AIR VENT--

--SILENTLY LOWERS HIMSELF INTO THE UNDERGROUND STRONGHOLD-- WHERE FIFTY ARMED MEN ARE READY TO KILL HIM --ON SIGHT!

HOW DO YOU FIGURE THIS PHANTOM?
I CAN'T. IF I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN, I WON'T KICK.

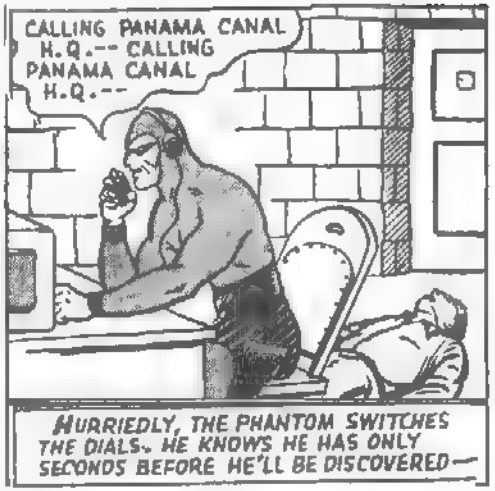

HE SUDDENLY LOOKS UP--PETRIFIED, TO SEE A SILENT FIGURE HANGING OVER THEIR HEADS-


UH...
UMPH...
3-12
TOMORROW—PHANTOM HANDS

BACK IN THE UNDERGROUND MAZE BENEATH THE TEMPLE RUINS, THE PHANTOM MOVES FAST--

AND AS THE RADIO OPERATOR OF THE UNDERGROUND STATION COMMUNICATES WITH HIS HOME BASE THOUSANDS OF MILES ACROSS THE OCEAN-

OOF!
3-13


CALLING PANAMA CANAL H.Q.-- CALLING PANAMA CANAL H.Q.--
HURRIEDLY, THE PHANTOM SWITCHES THE DIALS. HE KNOWS HE HAS ONLY SECONDS BEFORE HE'LL BE DISCOVERED--

CALLING PANAMA CANAL H.Q. HELLO--I'M TALKING FROM CELLARS OF INDIAN TEMPLE RUINS ON OVERLAND ROUTE--COME IN, PANAMA.

THIS IS PANAMA, ARMY BASE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COME IN.

LISTEN, CAN'T REPEAT. ENEMY AGENTS BUILDING UNDERGROUND PLANE HANGAR HERE. HAVE SECRET RADIO STATION. SEND FOUR TRANSPORT PLANES FOR PRISONERS--
3-14

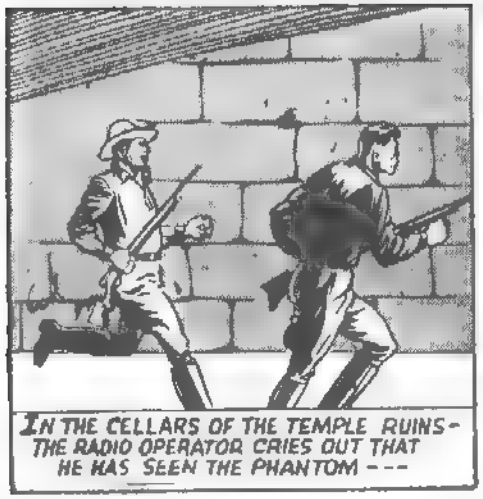
HAVEN'T GOT PRISONERS YET, BUT WILL-- DON'T NEED SOLDIERS--JUST SEND FIFTY PAIRS HANDCUFFS--
AS THE PHANTOM TALKS, THE RADIO-MAN COMES TO---AND CRAWLS QUIETLY TOWARD THE DOOR--TO CALL FOR HELP--

TELL HIM WE CAN'T LAND PLANES WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THAT TEMPLE-- NO OPEN SPACE--

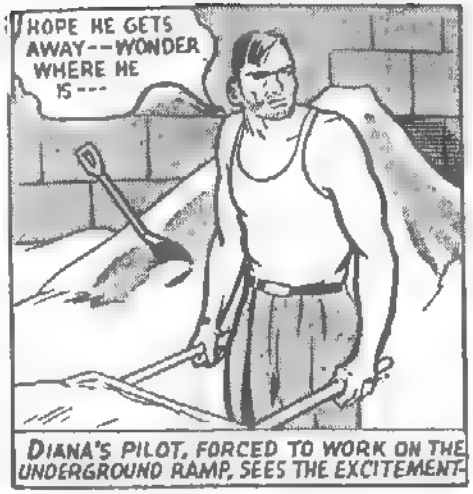
PLANES CAN LAND IN UNDERGROUND RAMP-- WILL BE READY-- HURRY-- HURRY---
TURNING, THE PHANTOM SEES THE RADIO-MAN CRAWL OUT OF THE ROOM...

HE'S HERE-- HE'S HERE! THE PHANTOM'S HERE!
3-15

WHAT HAPPENED?
HELLO--HELLO-- HE'S STOPPED TALKING---
CONTINUED-


IN THE CELLARS OF THE TEMPLE RUINS- THE RADIO OPERATOR CRIES OUT THAT HE HAS SEEN THE PHANTOM ---

HE WENT THAT WAY-- HE'S NO GHOST-- HE'S SOLID -- ESPECIALLY HIS FISTS---
3-17

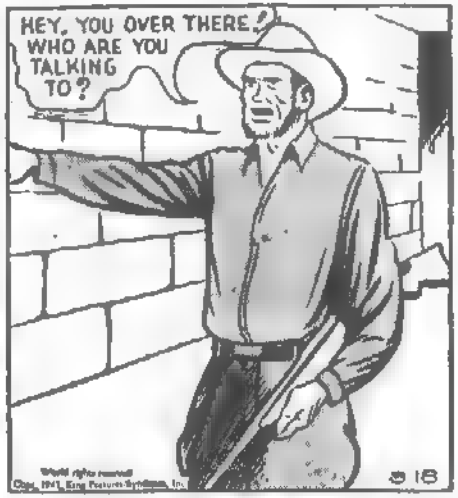

HOPE HE GETS AWAY--WONDER WHERE HE IS---
DIANA'S PILOT, FORCED TO WORK ON THE UNDERGROUND RAMP, SEES THE EXCITEMENT-

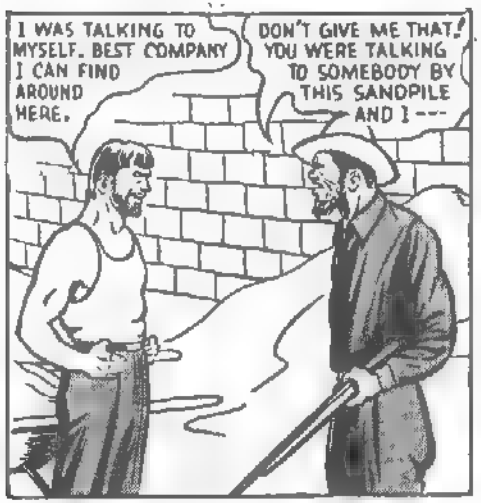
PSSST...
AND THERE, BEHIND THE SANDPILE--

I CAN'T HANDLE ALL THESE GUARDS SINGLE-HANDED.
YOU'RE DOING FINE, SO FAR! I'M GETTING BORED, WORKING TWENTY HOURS A DAY ON THIS RAMP. WHEN DO WE GET OUT?

THE BLOW-OFF IS COMING SOON--AND IT'S GOING TO BE THE WORST DOG-FIGHT YOU EVER SAW! DO YOU KNOW WHERE DIANA IS?

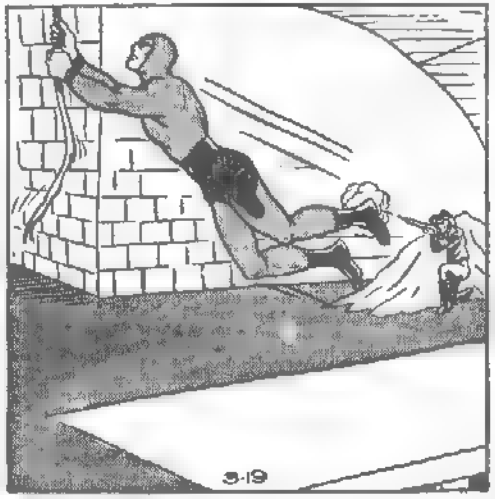
YES.
GOOD. AS SOON AS THE FIGHTING STARTS, GO TO HER AND TAKE CARE OF HER. I'LL BE TOO BUSY!

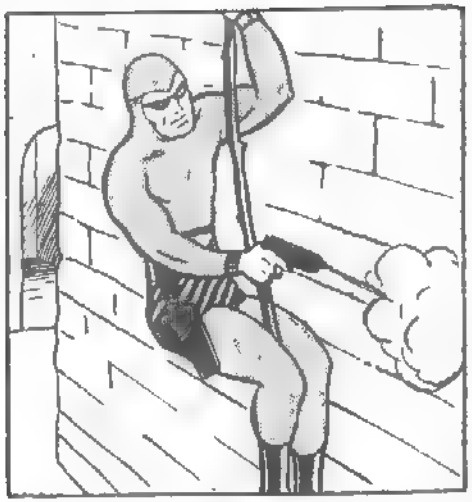

HEY, YOU OVER THERE! WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
3-18


I WAS TALKING TO MYSELF. BEST COMPANY I CAN FIND AROUND HERE.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU WERE TALKING TO SOMEBODY BY THIS SANDPILE AND I---

EH!...
SUDDENLY, ARMS REACH OUT FROM THE SANDPILE—

SO LONG, PAL. REMEMBER-- TAKE CARE OF DIANA!


3-19



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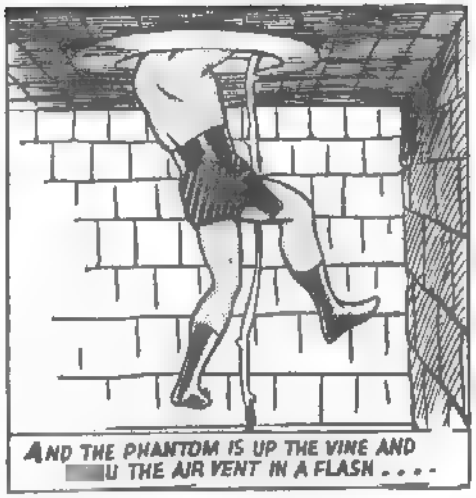
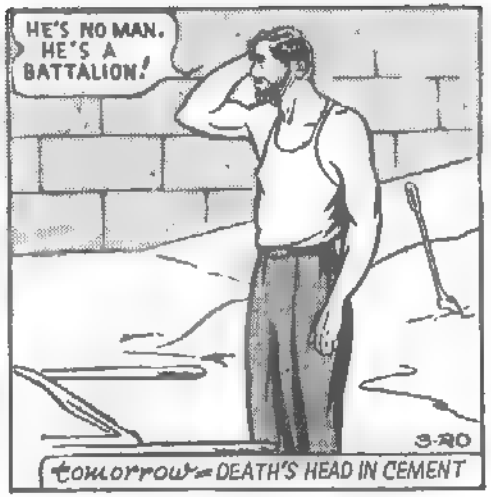
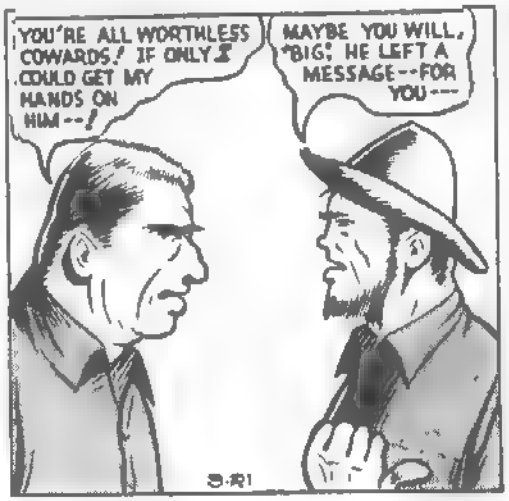

AND THE PHANTOM IS UP THE VINE AND
U THE AIR VENT IN A FLASH . . . .

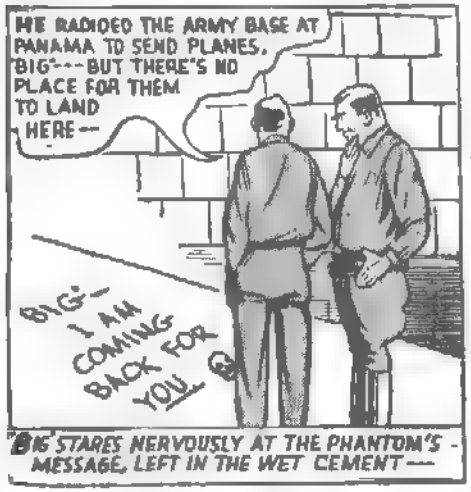

HE'S NO MAN. HE'S A BATTALION!
3-20
tomorrow—DEATH'S HEAD IN CEMENT

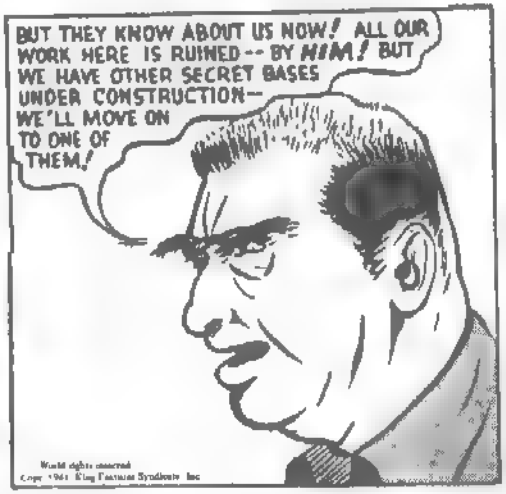
HE CAME UP BEHIND ME AND GRABBED ME, "BIG"—WHAT COULD I DO—?
WHAT COULD YOU DO? WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE? SLUGGED HIM!

HE WAS ON THE RAMP, "BIG". I TRIED TO SHOOT HIM, BUT HE SHOT FIRST—KNOCKED THE GUN OUT OF MY HAND—
FOOL! IF ONLY I HAD BEEN HERE—!


YOU'RE ALL WORTHLESS COWARDS! IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON HIM—!
MAYBE YOU WILL. "BIG", HE LEFT A MESSAGE—FOR YOU—
3-21

BIG— I AM COMING BACK FOR YOU.
AND THERE, SCRAWLED IN THE WET CEMENT—


HE RADIOED THE ARMY BASE AT PANAMA TO SEND PLANES, "BIG"—BUT THERE'S NO PLACE FOR THEM TO LAND HERE—
BIG— I AM COMING BACK FOR YOU.
"BIG" STARES NERVOUSLY AT THE PHANTOM'S MESSAGE, LEFT IN THE WET CEMENT—


BUT THEY KNOW ABOUT US NOW! ALL OUR WORK HERE IS RUINED—BY HIM! BUT WE HAVE OTHER SECRET BASES UNDER CONSTRUCTION—WE'LL MOVE ON TO ONE OF THEM!
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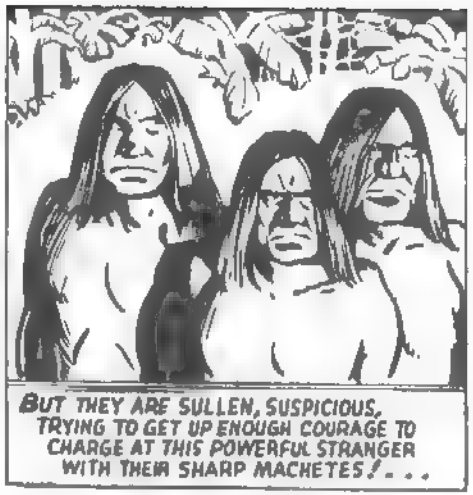
TELL EVERYONE TO PACK. WE LEAVE TOMORROW! COMING BACK FOR ME—IS HE—?

YOU'RE STAYING WITH ME—MISS DIANA PALMER! AND AT THE FIRST SIGN OF YOUR MASKED FRIEND—I'LL KILL YOU!
3-22
CONTINUED—

IN THE WOODS NEAR THE TEMPLE RUINS, IN THE PRIMITIVE VILLAGE OF THE WILDMEN—

THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY STEPS AMONG THEM-- THEY KNOW OF HIM FROM THEIR COMRADES WHOM HE CONQUERED EARLIER IN THE FOREST--

IN SIMPLE SIGN LANGUAGE, HE EXPLAINS THAT HE WANTS THEIR HELP TO CAPTURE THE EVIL MEN IN THE TEMPLE RUINS---

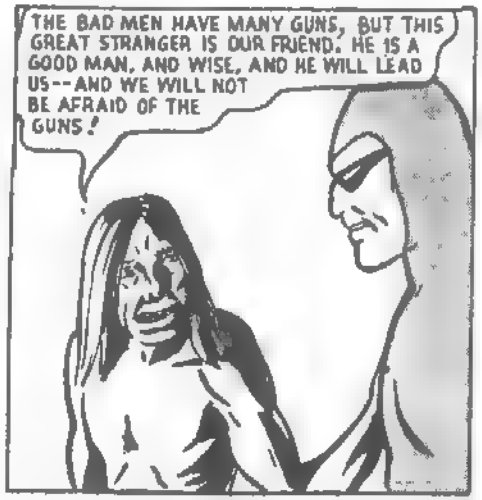

BUT THEY ARE SULLEN, SUSPICIOUS, TRYING TO GET UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO CHARGE AT THIS POWERFUL STRANGER WITH THEIR SHARP MACHETES!...

The PHANTOM GOES TO THE WILD MEN, ASKING THEM TO HELP HIM CONQUER THE MEN IN THE TEMPLE RUINS—
AS THE WILD WARRIORS, SUSPICIOUS AND SULLEN, MAKE READY TO CHARGE AT THE PHANTOM, A LITTLE OLD NATIVE RUNS FURIOUSLY AMONG THEM, BEATING THEM WITH A SMALL STICK—

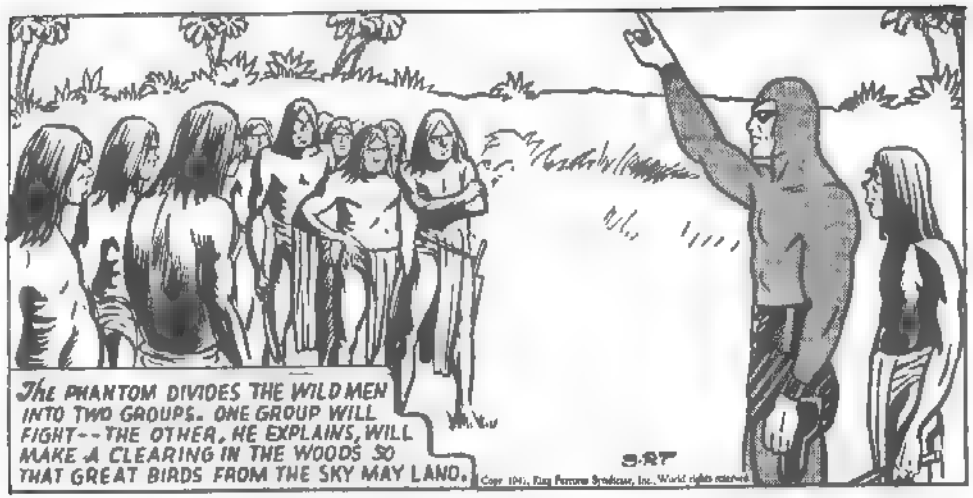
THIS IS OUR FRIEND! HE SAVED ME FROM DEATH IN THE TEMPLE CELLARS! WE WILL HELP HIM!

NO... NO..
NOT THE TEMPLE--
BUT THE NATIVES BELIEVE AN ANCIENT LEGEND--THAT A GREAT BEAST LIVES UNDER THE TEMPLE--THEY ARE AFRAID--

THERE IS NO BEAST BENEATH THE TEMPLE. THERE ARE ONLY BAD WHITE MEN WHO CAPTURE US, AND FORCE US TO WORK FOR THEM UNTIL WE DIE!


THE BAD MEN HAVE MANY GUNS, BUT THIS GREAT STRANGER IS OUR FRIEND. HE IS A GOOD MAN, AND WISE, AND HE WILL LEAD US--AND WE WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF THE GUNS!

The OLD MAN'S WORDS WIN THE DAY! THEY AGREE TO FOLLOW THE PHANTOM, AND ALL ARE ANXIOUS FOR A FIGHT!


THE PHANTOM DIVIDES THE WILD MEN INTO TWO GROUPS. ONE GROUP WILL FIGHT--THE OTHER, HE EXPLAINS, WILL MAKE A CLEARING IN THE WOODS SO THAT GREAT BIRDS FROM THE SKY MAY LAND.
3-27
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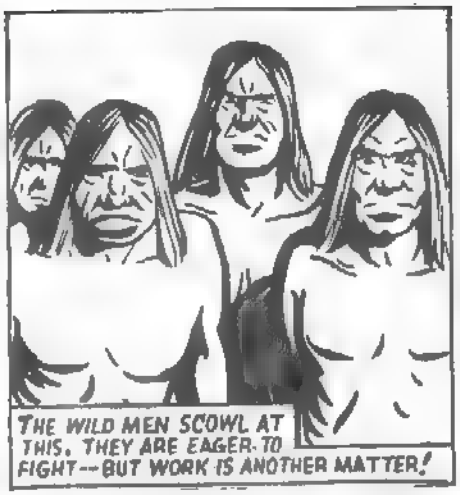
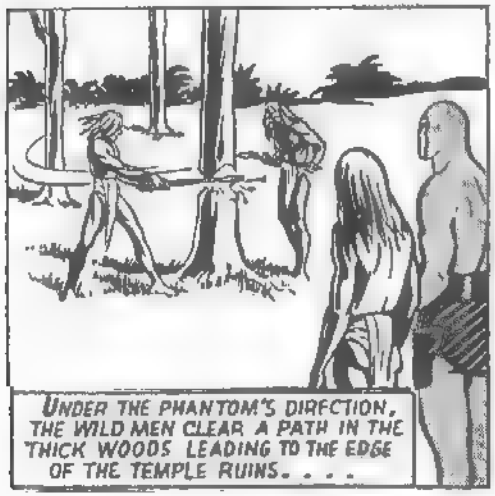

THE WILD MEN SCOWL AT THIS. THEY ARE EAGER TO FIGHT--BUT WORK IS ANOTHER MATTER!

IDLERS! YOU ARE MORE AFRAID TO WORK THAN TO DIE! DO AS OUR LEADER COMMANDS!
BUT THE DYNAMIC OLD MAN COMES TO THE RESCUE AGAIN, BEATING THE BRAWNY WARRIORS WITH HIS LITTLE STICK--AND IT IS AGREED! THEY'LL WORK!


UNDER THE PHANTOM'S DIRECTION, THE WILD MEN CLEAR A PATH IN THE THICK WOODS LEADING TO THE EDGE OF THE TEMPLE RUINS. . . .

3-28
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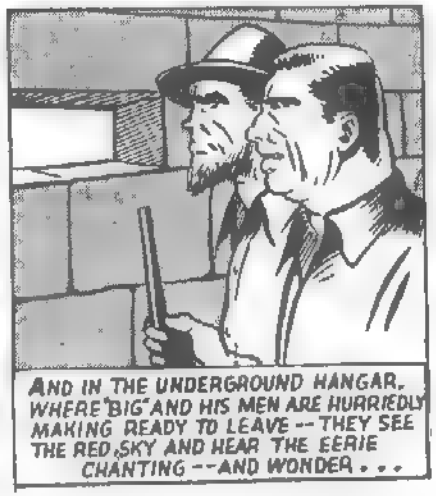
FOR SOON, PLANES WILL BE COMING--AND THE PHANTOM IS PREPARING A RUNWAY THAT WILL LEAD TO THE UNDERGROUND RAMP, ITSELF . . .

UNDERBRUSH IS REMOVED WITH FIRE--AND THE WILD MEN CHANT THEIR WEIRD SONGS IN THE JUNGLE NIGHT AS THEY WORK---


AND IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR, WHERE "BIG" AND HIS MEN ARE HURRIEDLY MAKING READY TO LEAVE--THEY SEE THE RED SKY AND HEAR THE EERIE CHANTING--AND WONDER . . .

WHAT ARE THOSE WILD MEN DOING? WORKING? NEVER SAW THEM DO THAT BEFORE, "BIG."
I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THIS PLACE IS GETTING ON MY NERVES!

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU--DIANA. IF THE PHANTOM TRIES TO GET ME--I'LL GET YOU, FIRST!
IT'LL BE WORTH IT--JUST TO SEE HIM GET HIS HANDS ON YOU!

3-29
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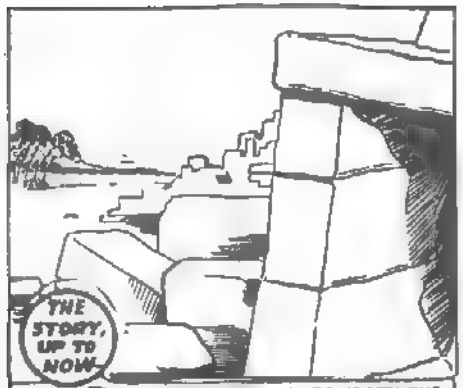
A CLEARING HAS BEEN MADE IN THE THICK WOODS--SO THAT THE EXPECTED ARMY PLANES CAN LAND---

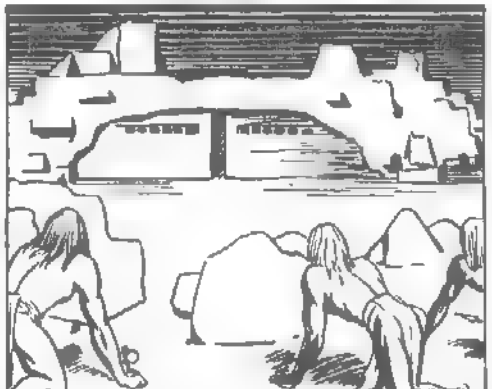
AND NOW--THE PHANTOM IS READY TO STORM THE ARMED UNDERGROUND FORTRESS--WITH KNIVES AGAINST MACHINE-GUNS!



DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, BENEATH THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT INDIAN TEMPLE, AN ALIEN POWER IS BUILDING A SECRET UNDERGROUND AIRPLANE-HANGAR!

THE PHANTOM IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY THIS CONSPIRACY! HE GIVES ORDERS TO PETE, DIANA'S PILOT -- WHO IS A PRISONER THERE ---

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PHANTOM, THE NATIVE WARRIORS QUIETLY FILTER INTO THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR -- SOME ENTER BY WAY OF THE AIR VENT. . .



OTHERS CREEP TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE OF THE HANGAR. ITSELF --

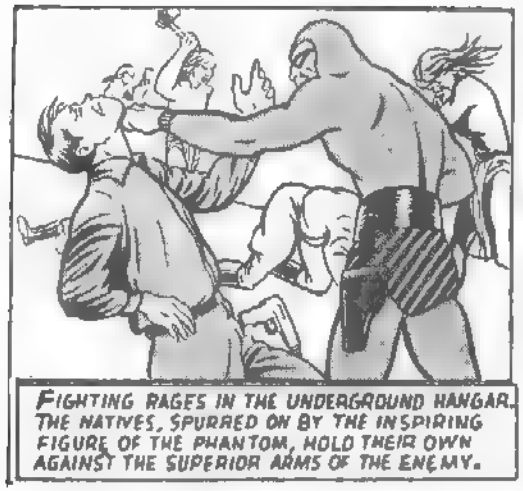
BUT THE GREATEST NUMBER FOLLOW THE PHANTOM THRU THE SECRET TUNNEL FROM WHICH HE HAD MADE A PREVIOUS ESCAPE!

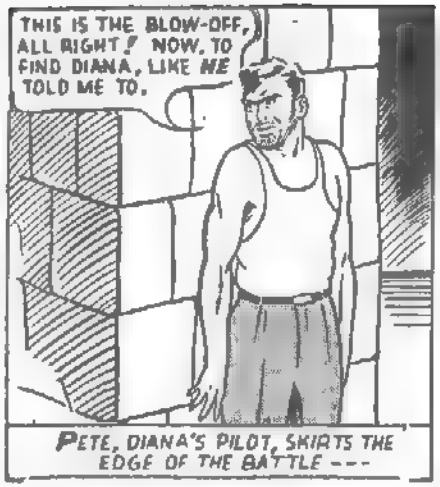
SUDDENLY, THE SILENCE OF THE UNDERGROUND CORRIDORS IS BROKEN BY A SHOT ---AND PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE!

WARRIORS, SHRIEKING THEIR WAR CRIES, STREAM DOWN FROM THE AIR-VENT OPENING . . .

-CHARGE THRU THE HANGAR DOORS ---

--AND POUR OUT OF THE SECRET TUNNEL— AND TO THE STUNNED DEFENDERS, THE MOST BLOOD-FREEZING SIGHT OF ALL IS THE GRIM PHANTOM!

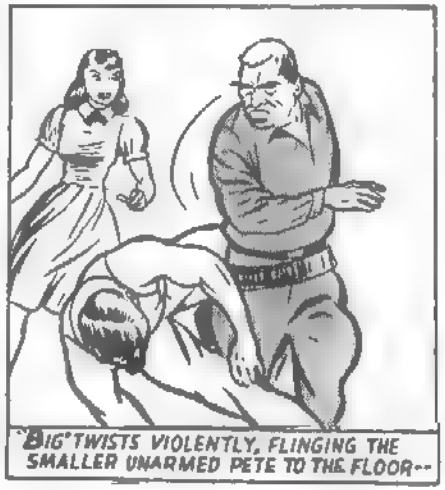

FIGHTING RAGES IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR. THE NATIVES, SPURRED ON BY THE INSPIRING FIGURE OF THE PHANTOM, HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST THE SUPERIOR ARMS OF THE ENEMY.

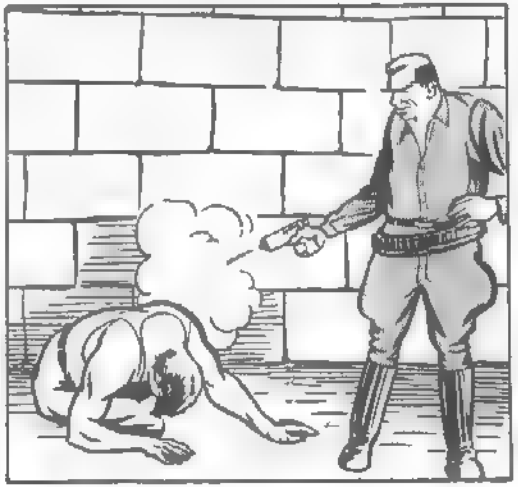

THIS IS THE BLOW-OFF, ALL RIGHT! NOW, TO FIND DIANA, LIKE ME TOLD ME TO.
PETE, DIANA'S PILOT, SKIRTS THE EDGE OF THE BATTLE ---

COME ON -- WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
NO --!
AS "BIG", LEADER OF THE GANG, PREPARES TO DESERT HIS MEN IN A COWARDLY FLIGHT...

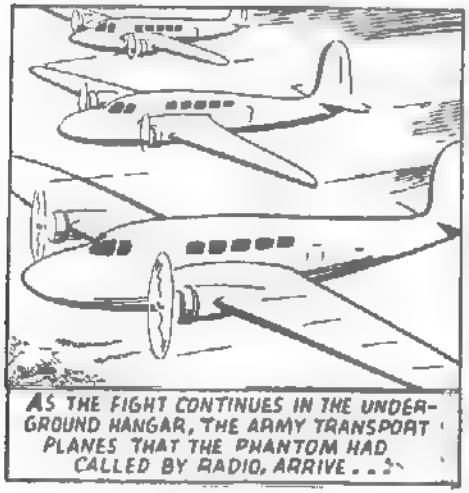
4-3
TOMORROW - PETE'S TRY

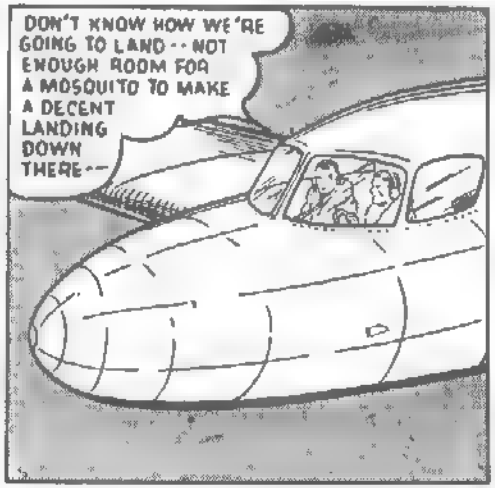
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
UH!
4-4


"BIG" TWISTS VIOLENTLY, FLINGING THE SMALLER UNARMED PETE TO THE FLOOR--



YOU SHOT HIM -- IN COLD-BLOOD! YOU LOATH- E --
SAVE THAT FANCY TALK. NOBODY CAN HEAR YOU. WE'RE LEAVING!
"BIG" OPENS A HIDDEN WALL PANEL -- DRIVEN BY FEAR OF THE PHANTOM -- HE'S WASTING NO TIME!


AS THE FIGHT CONTINUES IN THE UNDER-GROUND HANGAR, THE ARMY TRANSPORT PLANES THAT THE PHANTOM HAD CALLED BY RADIO, ARRIVE...


DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO LAND -- NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR A MOSQUITO TO MAKE A DECENT LANDING DOWN THERE --

GANGWAY!
THE PHANTOM HEARS THE ROAR OF THE PLANES -- HE FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE RADIO-ROOM -- TO INSTRUCT THE PLANES TO ROLL INTO THE UNDERGROUND RAMP...

I WON'T GO-10 ANOTHER STEP!
NOT MUCH YOU WON'T! Hmm - ARMY PLANES! WE'RE GETTING AWAY JUST IN TIME!
4-5
NEXT WEEK - DYNAMITE!

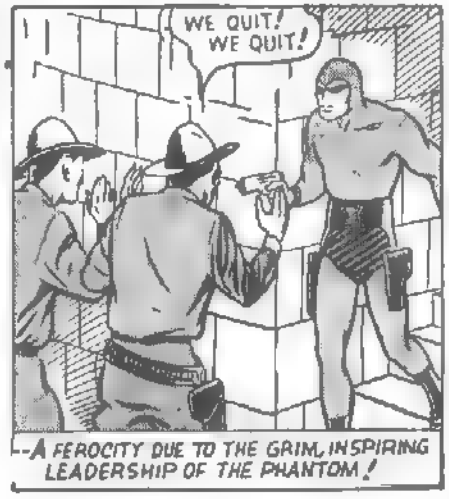
HELLO, UP THERE! FOLLOW CLEARING TO EDGE OF RUINS. THEN TAXI DOWN UNDERGROUND RAMP. PLENTY OF ROOM -- WHOA -- JUST A MINUTE --
IN THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR -- THE PHANTOM SIGNALS THE ARMY PLANES ABOVE. . .

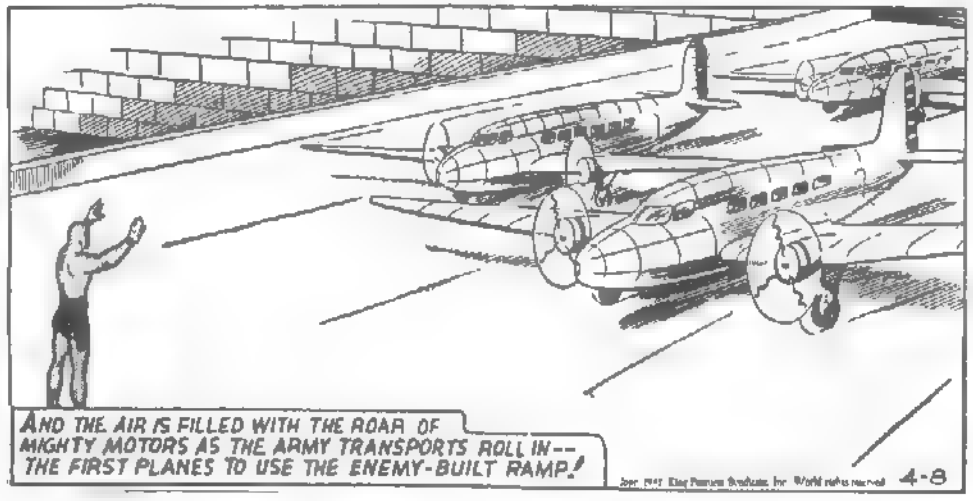
CIRCLE AROUND FOR TEN MINUTES UNTIL WE GET THINGS DOWN HERE UNDER CONTROL. GOT THAT?

WE GOT IT.
4-7

I WON'T GO WITH YOU --!
YOU'RE MY "INSURANCE" AGAINST THE PHANTOM! WHILE I'VE GOT YOU, I'M SAFE! GET IN THAT BOAT!
MEANWHILE, "BIG" WITH DIANA, REACHES A SMALL, SWIFT STREAM IN THE WOODS -- "BIG'S" LONG-PREPARED GETAWAY. . .

THESE MEN ARE TIGERS!
DROP ONE AND TWO MORE ARE ON YOUR NECK! THEY USED TO BE SO MEEK-LIKE! WHERE'D THEY GET ALL THE VINEGAR?
ALL OVER THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS, THE GUARDS ARE GIVING UP BEFORE THE FEROCITY OF THE WILD WARRIORS --


WE QUIT! WE QUIT!
-- A FEROCITY DUE TO THE GRIM, INSPIRING LEADERSHIP OF THE PHANTOM!


AND THE AIR IS FILLED WITH THE ROAR OF MIGHTY MOTORS AS THE ARMY TRANSPORTS ROLL IN -- THE FIRST PLANES TO USE THE ENEMY-BUILT RAMP!
4-8

WHO ARE YOU?
I TALKED TO YOU BY RADIO.

WOW! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON DOWN HERE? A WAR?
4-9

AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS PLACE! A REGULAR HANGAR -- BUILT UNDER THE RUINS!
RUNNING WATER AND EVERYTHING. HANDCUFF THOSE PRISONERS AND FLY THEM BACK TO THE ARMY JAIL. I'M OVERDUE ALREADY. I'VE GOT TO FIND A GIRL!
TOMORROW - WILD MEN GET WILDER --

The CAPTURED HANGAR GUARDS ARE HANDCUFFED AND LED INTO THE ARMY TRANSPORTS-
SULLEN LADS. HAVE WE GOT THEM ALL?
ALL THAT CAN WALK. EXCEPT "BIG", THEIR LEADER, BUT I THINK HE'S IN GOOD HANDS. I'M GOING TO FIND OUT NOW.
4-10

SUDDENLY, AN EAR-SPLITTING BEDLAM BEGINS-- AS THE WILD WARRIORS RACE MADLY AROUND THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS...

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! DON'T GO AWAY! THOSE GUYS ARE GOING HAYWIRE!
tomorrow=DYNAMITE!

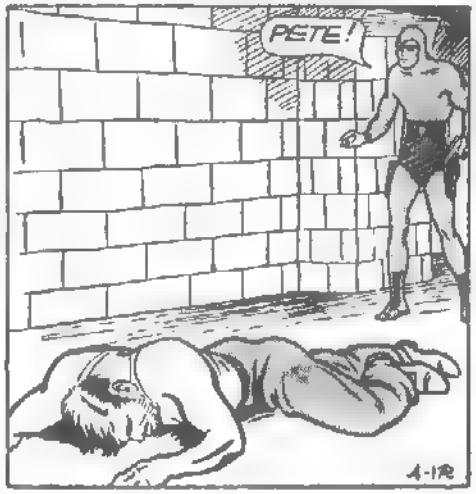
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THOSE WILD MEN?
THEY'VE WON A BATTLE. THEY'RE CELEBRATING.

THEY HAVE IT COMING! SOME OF THEM WERE ENSLAVED DOWN HERE. THEY HATED THIS PLACE AND ALL THAT IT STOOD FOR!
4-11

BESIDES -- THEY CAN'T HURT ANYTHING. IT'S ALL STONE AND CONCRETE DOWN HERE.
WELL -- AS LONG AS THEY KEEP AWAY FROM OUR PLANES--

CAN'T HURT ANYTHING? PILED INCONSPICUOUSLY IN A DARK CORNER ARE CRATES OF DYNAMITE!

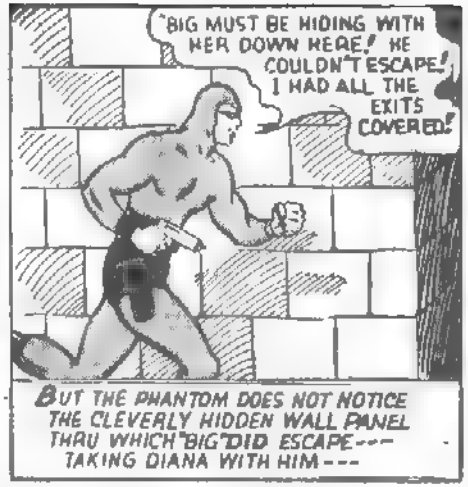
I SUPPOSE PETE HAS TAKEN CARE OF "BIG"-- AND DIANA MUST BE WITH HIM-- I WONDER WHERE THEY ARE?


PETE!
4-12

WHERE'S DIANA --?
I -- DON'T KNOW--

OUTSIDE, AS THE NATIVES WILDLY CELEBRATE THEIR VICTORY -- A FLAMING TORCH IS CARELESSLY -- UNINTENTIONALLY -- THROWN ON THE CRATES OF DYNAMITE!!

DIANA WAS WITH "BIG." I JUMPED HIM--HE TOSSED ME--THEN SHOT ME. I MUST HAVE PASSED OUT.
YOU'RE BADLY HURT, PETE. DON'T TRY TO MOVE...


"BIG" MUST BE HIDING WITH HER DOWN HERE! HE COULDN'T ESCAPE! I HAD ALL THE EXITS COVERED!
BUT THE PHANTOM DOES NOT NOTICE THE CLEVERLY HIDDEN WALL PANEL THRU WHICH "BIG" DID ESCAPE--- TAKING DIANA WITH HIM---

LOOK! THOSE CRAZY WILD MEN HAVE STARTED A FIRE!
WE'D BETTER PUT IT OUT BEFORE IT SPREADS TO THE PLANES!
4-14

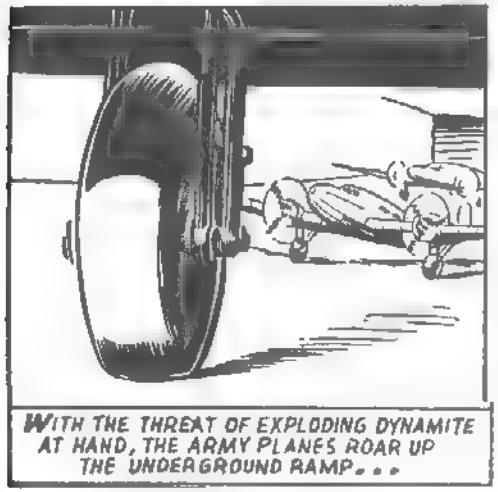
MY GOSH! DYNAMITE!
Tomorrow- RUN, DON'T WALK.

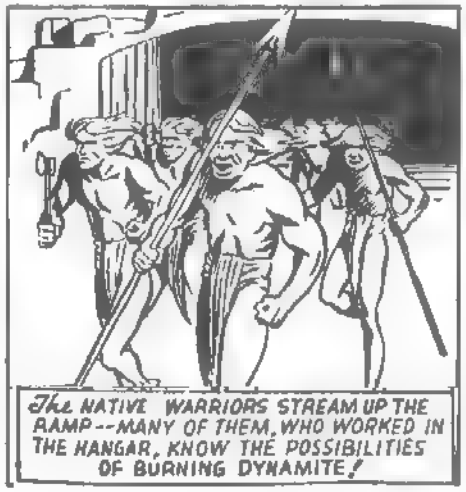
GET YOUR PLANES OUT OF HERE! THE DYNAMITE IS ON FIRE! IT MAY GO OFF AT ANY MINUTE!

TAKE PETE WITH YOU. HE'S GOT A BAD BULLET WOUND. NOW--GET GOING!
HOW ABOUT YOU?
4-15

GO ON--GET OUT OF HERE--ALL OF YOU!
The PHANTOM "SHOOS" THE VALIANT NATIVES TOWARDS THE RAMP -- AND THEY, TOO, WANT TO KNOW--"HOW ABOUT YOU?"

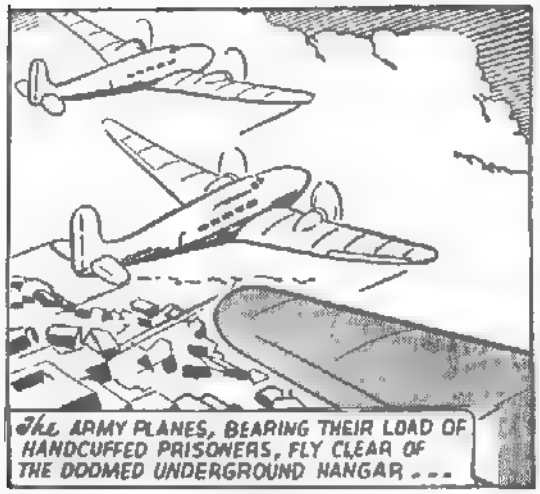
I'VE GOT TO FIND DIANA!
Tomorrow- FRUITLESS SEARCH


WITH THE THREAT OF EXPLODING DYNAMITE AT HAND, THE ARMY PLANES ROAR UP THE UNDERGROUND RAMP...

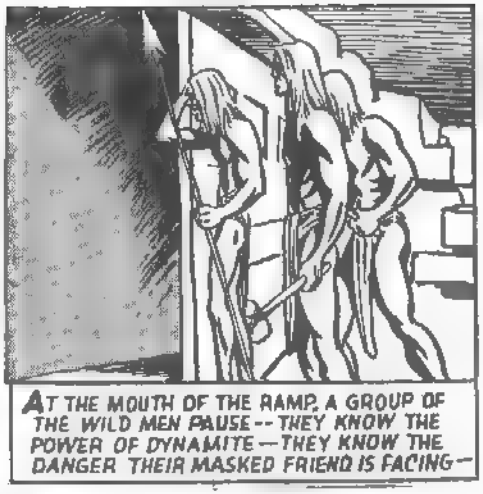

The NATIVE WARRIORS STREAM UP THE RAMP--MANY OF THEM, WHO WORKED IN THE HANGAR, KNOW THE POSSIBILITIES OF BURNING DYNAMITE!

DIANA... DIANA...
THE PHANTOM REMAINS, SEARCHING VAINLY FOR DIANA--WHOM HE BELIEVES TO BE SOMEWHERE IN THE UNDERGROUND LABYRINTH...

4-16
AT THAT MOMENT, DIANA IS MANY MILES AWAY--A PRISONER OF THE ESCAPED LEADER, "BIG."


The ARMY PLANES, BEARING THEIR LOAD OF HANDCUFFED PRISONERS, FLY CLEAR OF THE DOOMED UNDERGROUND HANGAR . . .

WE'LL BE BACK FOR THE MASKED MAN-- TO FLY HIM OUT OF THESE JUNGLES— OR TO BURY HIM--


AT THE MOUTH OF THE RAMP, A GROUP OF THE WILD MEN PAUSE--THEY KNOW THE POWER OF DYNAMITE—THEY KNOW THE DANGER THEIR MASKED FRIEND IS FACING—

DIANA... DIANA...
4-17
THEY PURSUE HIM UNDERGROUND, BEGGING HIM TO GIVE UP HIS SEARCH AND LEAVE BEFORE THE BURNING DYNAMITE EXPLODES---

THE WILD MEN PLEAD WITH THE PHANTOM TO LEAVE THE DOOMED UNDERGROUND HANGAR-- HE REFUSES--SAYING HE MUST FIND DIANA---

THEY DECIDE TO HELP THEIR MASKED FRIEND, SEARCHING THRU THE LABYRINTH FOR DIANA---AS THE FLAMES GROW HIGHER ON THE DYNAMITE CRATES. . .

ALL OF YOU GET OUT OF HERE. I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I FIND HER!
THEY CANNOT FIND HER. AGAIN THEY PLEAD WITH THE PHANTOM TO LEAVE -- HE REFUSES. . .

4-18
THEN, WITH ONE ACCORD—THEY JUMP HIM!

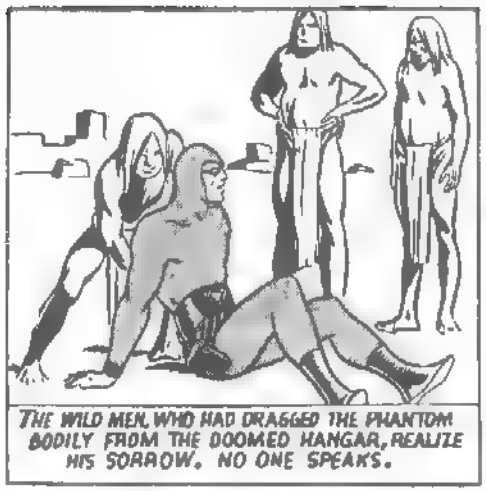
IN DESPERATION, THE WILD MEN GANG UP ON THEIR MASKED FRIEND-- THE SURPRISE ATTACK CATCHES HIM OFF-BALANCE . . . .

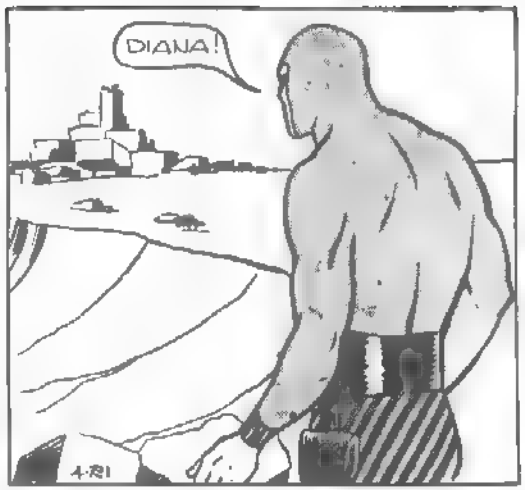
THE PHANTOM STRUGGLES, ALMOST THROWING ALL OF THEM OFF THEIR FEET--BUT THEY HAUL HIM OUT OF THE DOOMED UNDERGROUND HANGAR---

4-19
--AND REACHING THE SURFACE -- THEY PLACE HIM GENTLY ON THE GRASS--AND SIT ON HIM!

THEY DO NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT! THERE IS AN EARTH-SHAKING EXPLOSION —
CONTINUED-

THE TERRIFIC DYNAMITE EXPLOSION COMPLETELY DESTROYS THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR BENEATH THE OLD INDIAN TEMPLE RUINS---


THE WILD MEN, WHO HAD DRAGGED THE PHANTOM BODILY FROM THE DOOMED HANGAR, REALIZE HIS SORROW. NO ONE SPEAKS.


DIANA!
4-21

The WILD MEN BURY THEIR DEAD WHO FELL IN THE BATTLE OF THE UNDERGROUND HANGAR.
THE WEIRD CEREMONY IS HELD BY TORCHLIGHT IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT, AND THE PRIMITIVE INCANTATIONS AND TOM-TOM BEATS THROB THRU THE STILL JUNGLE...
4-22

USING SIMPLE SIGN LANGUAGE, THE PHANTOM TELLS THEM THAT BY THEIR VALOR, THEY HAVE WON FREEDOM FROM THE TYRANNY OF THE HANGAR-BUILDERS...

SHE'S DEAD. "DEVIL", DEAD.
BUT HIS HEART IS HEAVY, FOR HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT DIANA ESCAPED FROM THE HANGAR BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.
tomorrow-DIANA'S PROSPECTS

WE'LL STOP HERE AND COOK SUPPER.

DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY. A BULLET CAN MOVE FASTER THAN YOU CAN.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP ME A PRISONER?
UNTIL I REACH THE COAST. MEANWHILE, YOU'RE MY HOSTAGE---IF THE PHANTOM TRIES TO FOLLOW ME, I'LL KILL YOU AND HE KNOWS THAT.
THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE HANGAR EXPLOSION...
4-23

WILL YOU FREE ME AT THE COAST?
I SAID--YOU'LL NO LONGER BE MY PRISONER. I WON'T NEED YOU AFTER THAT.
tomorrow-THE HANDKERCHIEF

RUN ALONG, "DEVIL". I DON'T FEEL LIKE ROMPING WITH YOU TODAY.

"DEVIL" ROMPS BY HIMSELF -- BUT HIS HEART ISN'T IN IT. HE REALIZES SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIS MASTER -- SOME SADNESS...

HIS MASTER ACTS LIKE HE'S SICK -- BUT HE ISN'T SICK. AH, THIS COOL, CLEAR WATER TASTES GOOD ON A HOT DAY --- MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HE NEEDS -- A GOOD DRINK OF COLD WATER...

4-24
WHAT'S THIS? "DEVIL" KNOWS THAT SWEET PERFUME! IT'S THE SCENT OF SOMEBODY HE LIKES, WHOM HIS MASTER LIKES! DIANA'S HANDKERCHIEF!

"DEVIL" FINDS DIANA'S HANDKERCHIEF LYING AT THE STREAM'S EDGE. HE DOESN'T KNOW IT'S A HANDKERCHIEF -- BUT HE DOES KNOW DIANA'S PERFUME...

HIS MASTER WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THIS, DEFINITELY. SINCE HE, OBVIOUSLY, LIKES DIANA, HE WOULD, OBVIOUSLY, LIKE HER HANDKERCHIEF. SO REASONS "DEVIL".

WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF, WOOF! COME AND SEE WHAT I'VE FOUND!
4-25

RUN ALONG, "DEVIL". GO AND PLAY IN THE WOODS. I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING WITH YOU.

"DEVIL" -- WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
WOOF... WOOF!

WILL YOU LEAVE ME IN PEACE, YOU SHAGGY NUISANCE?
4-26

YOU WIN. WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?

DIANA'S HANDKERCHIEF!
CONTINUED-

DIANA'S HANDKERCHIEF! THAT MEANS SHE GOT OUT OF THE HANGAR! "BIG" MUST HAVE HAD A SECRET EXIT!

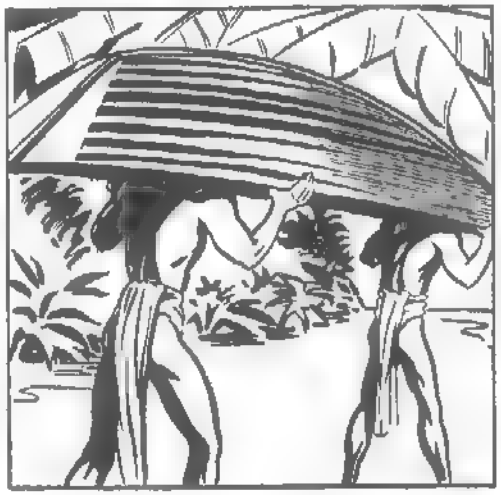
..KEEL MARK IN THE SAND! "BIG" HAD A BOAT HERE. WHICH WAY DID THEY GO? DOWNSTREAM, MOST LIKELY. TO THE COAST!

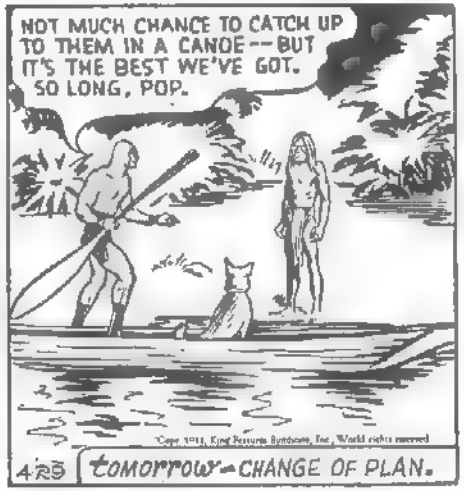
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME! 'DEVIL', IF YOU WERE A LADY-WOLF, I'D KISS YOU!

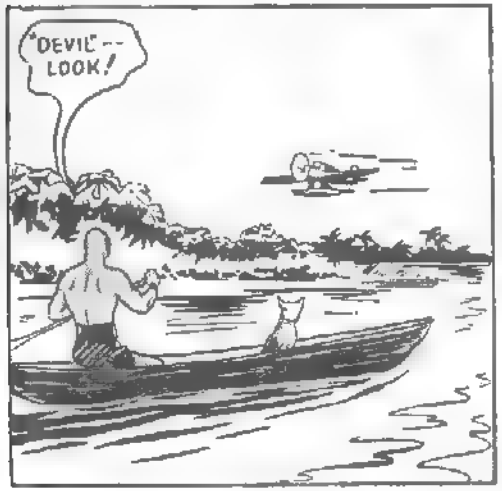
'DEVIL', SHE'S ALIVE!
WOOF!
4-28
'DEVIL' DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ALL THE SHOOTING'S ABOUT--BUT HIS MASTER'S HAPPY--SO HE'S HAPPY, TOO!

HMM-- OIL IN THE SAND. IT'S A MOTORBOAT.

LAY OFF, POP, AND GET ME A CANOE.
The PHANTOM EXPLAINS TO THE LITTLE OLD NATIVE THAT THE GIRL IS ALIVE. THE OLD MAN SHOWS HIS DELIGHT...




NOT MUCH CHANCE TO CATCH UP TO THEM IN A CANOE--BUT IT'S THE BEST WE'VE GOT. SO LONG, POP.
4-29
tomorrow--CHANGE OF PLAN.


'DEVIL'-- LOOK!

PETE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
STILL A LITTLE WOBBLY. I SPOTTED THIS LITTLE LAKE THE OTHER DAY FROM THE ARMY TRANSPORT--

I FIGURED THE DYNAMITE WOULD FINISH THE RAMP--SO I KNEW A SEAPLANE WAS THE ONLY JOB THAT COULD LAND IN THESE WOODS--
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO GLAD TO SEE ANYBODY!
4-30

DID YOU FIND-- DIANA?
SHE'S IN A MOTORBOAT WITH 'BIG'! FOLLOW THE STREAM COASTWARD! NOW. I'LL FIND THEM!

The PHANTOM AND PETE FOLLOW THE WINDING STREAM COASTWARD, SEARCHING FOR "BIG'S" MOTORBOAT...

I KNOW NOW WHY YOU'VE BROUGHT ME ALONG AS A "HOSTAGE." YOU'RE AFRAID -- DEATHLY AFRAID OF THE PHANTOM!
REALLY?
5-1

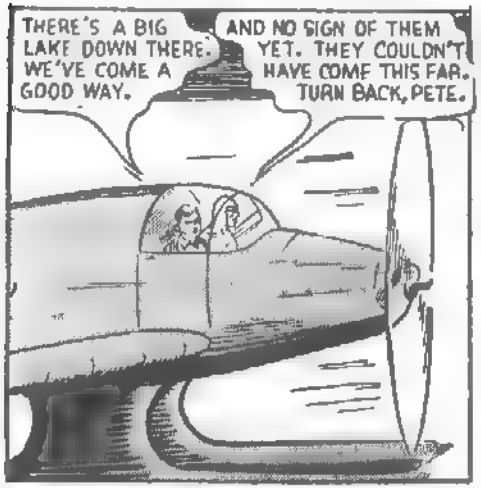
IF I WASN'T IN SUCH A HURRY, I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM AGAIN! I'D BREAK HIM IN TWO LIKE A DRIED STICK!
CONFIDENT THAT HE'S SLIPPED THE PHANTOM, "BIG" IS BEGINNING TO FEEL COCKY AGAIN ---

A PLANE! HE'S FOLLOWING US! I KNOW IT'S HIM! I KNOW IT!
THEN, SUDDENLY, A FAINT PROPELLER WHIRR IS HEARD -- AND "BIG'S" BRAVERY SLIPS OFF, LIKE AN OLD SNAKE SKIN!

HURRY UP -- GET ON THE BANK!
THE SOUND OF THE PLANE COMES CLOSER -- "BIG" IS IN A PANIC...

NO SIGN OF THEM YET.
THEY CAN'T BE MUCH FARTHER ALONG. WELL, KEEP GOING.

THEY'RE GONE --
YES -- AND THEY DIDN'T SEE US! LUCKY FOR THEM!
5-R


THERE'S A BIG LAKE DOWN THERE. WE'VE COME A GOOD WAY.
AND NO SIGN OF THEM YET. THEY COULDN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR. TURN BACK, PETE.

GAVE HIM THE SLIP THAT TIME -- TRY TO CATCH UP WITH "BIG", WILL HE? LET HIM TRY!
WHILE "BIG" COOKS, DIANA LISTENS -- AND HEARS SOMETHING -- BUT "BIG" IS TOO BUSY TALKING TO HEAR ANYTHING ---

LITTLE FOOL -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
5-9

HERE I AM! HERE I AM!
FURIOUSLY, "BIG" TRIES TO STAMP OUT THE FLAMES THAT SPREAD RAPIDLY IN THE DEAD LEAVES -- DIANA HAS LIGHTED A BEACON TO GUIDE THE PHANTOM -- A DEADLY BEACON THAT MAY ENGULF HER!

DIANA SCATTERS THE CAMPFIRE, STARTING A BLAZE TO SIGNAL THE PHANTOM--

HE SAW US!
5-5

THIS PARACHUTE OKAY, PETE?
GOODNIGHT! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUMP DOWN IN THOSE FLAMES?

YOUR FIRE ALMOST TRAPPED US! THE BOAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE IT!
HE SAW US-- HE SAW US!

YOU CAN'T JUMP INTO THAT FLAMING FOREST! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
STOP TALKING SO MUCH, PETE, AND GIVE ME ANOTHER HUNDRED FEET OF ALTITUDE.
5-6

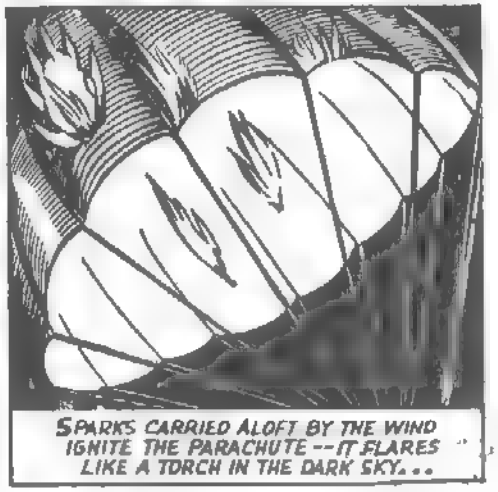
LAND ON THAT LAKE, DOWNSTREAM, AND WAIT FOR US.

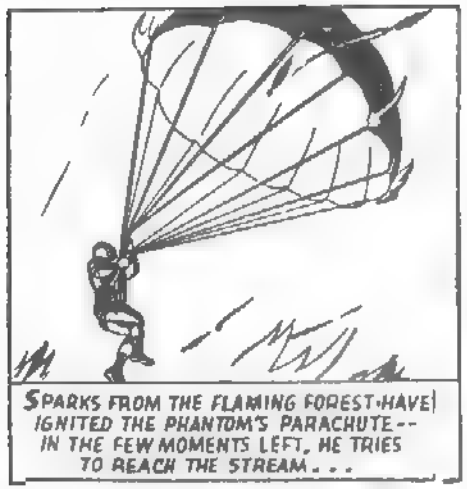
tomorrow- TORCH IN THE SKY

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM DO IT-- BUT HOW COULD I STOP HIM? NOBODY SAYS "DON'T" TO HIM!
5-7

FLOATING TOWARDS THE FLAMING FOREST, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO HEAD FOR THE OPEN STREAM BELOW---

HERE HE COMES! OH--


SPARKS CARRIED ALOFT BY THE WIND IGNITE THE PARACHUTE--IT FLARES LIKE A TORCH IN THE DARK SKY...


SPARKS FROM THE FLAMING FOREST HAVE IGNITED THE PHANTOM'S PARACHUTE -- IN THE FEW MOMENTS LEFT, HE TRIES TO REACH THE STREAM . . .

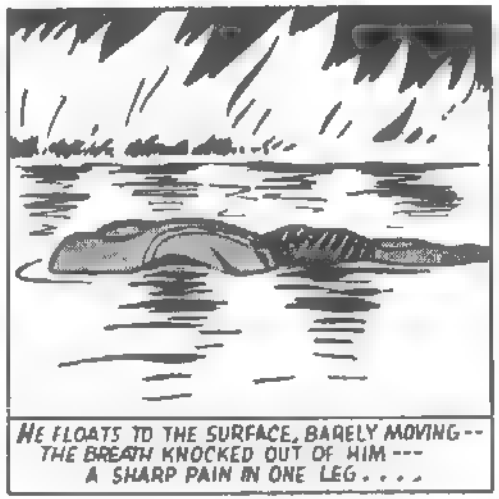
JUST TO MAKE SURE OF HIM!
NO!
AND "BIG", ALWAYS BRAVE WHEN AN OPPONENT IS HELPLESS, SHOOTS AT THE FLAMING TARGET---

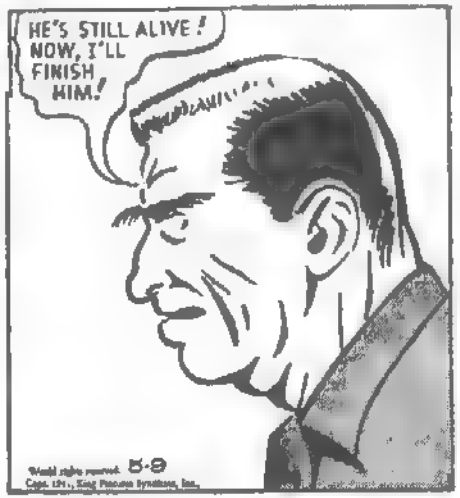
AS THE CHUTE ROARS WITH FLAME, THE PHANTOM CAN WAIT NO LONGER. HE SLASHES THE CHUTE ROPES--AS BULLETS WHIZ NEAR HIM--

B-8

THE PHANTOM ENDS HIS HUNDRED-FOOT FALL FROM THE FLAMING PARACHUTE INTO THE DEEP STREAM . . . .

DIANA AND 'BIG' WATCH BREATHLESSLY---

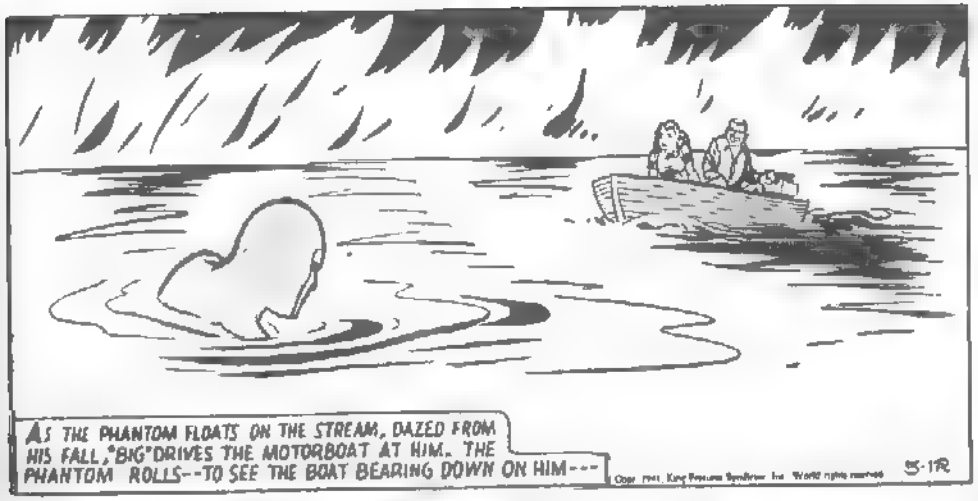

HE FLOATS TO THE SURFACE, BARELY MOVING -- THE BREATH KNOCKED OUT OF HIM --- A SHARP PAIN IN ONE LEG . . . .


HE'S STILL ALIVE! NOW, I'LL FINISH HIM!
B-9

DAZED FROM THE FALL, A SHARP PAIN IN HIS LEG, THE PHANTOM FLOATS ON THE STREAM—

HURRY UP -- BEFORE HE COMES TO!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

GIVE HIM A GOING-OVER WITH THIS BOAT! THE LITTLE PROPELLER WILL DO A JOB ON HIM!
B-10
CONTINUED ~


AS THE PHANTOM FLOATS ON THE STREAM, DAZED FROM HIS FALL, "BIG" DRIVES THE MOTORBOAT AT HIM. THE PHANTOM ROLLS--TO SEE THE BOAT BEARING DOWN ON HIM---
5-12

NO!
DIANA SUDDENLY THROWS HERSELF AT "BIG"

AND THE FORCE OF HER QUICK MOVE OVERTURNS THE SMALL CRAFT...

WHEN DIANA THROWS HERSELF AGAINST "BIG", THE BOAT OVERTURNS--"BIG" SWIMS FRANTICALLY FOR SHORE....

SHAKING HIMSELF TO CLEAR HIS HEAD, THE PHANTOM DIVES UNDER FOR DIANA--- IGNORING HIS THROBBING LEG...

WHERE ARE THEY?
3-13

DIANA EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW-- OPEN YOUR EYES
AND UNDERNEATH THE OVERTURNED BOAT---

HE'S GOT TO POP UP SOON-- AND WHEN HE DOES--

DIANA--FEELING ALL RIGHT?
NOW--I FEEL--PERFECT-- DARLING, DID YOU HURT YOURSELF, WHEN YOU FELL?

NOT AT ALL. STAY HERE UNDER THE BOAT, DIANA. "BIG'S" OUTSIDE, WAITING TO GET A SHOT AT ME. I'M GOING OUT TO GET HIM.
3-14

THEY MUST HAVE DROPPED OUT. WHILE I WAS FALLING THRU THE AIR-- NOW WHAT?
OUTSIDE THE OVERTURNED BOAT, THE PHANTOM REACHES FOR HIS GUNS, BUT FINDS ONLY EMPTY HOLSTERS!

I'M IN FINE SHAPE -- NO GUNS -- ONE LEG CRIPPLED FROM THE FALL -- AND 'BIG' STANDING THERE, READY TO POP ME OFF LIKE A CLAY PIGEON --

BUT I'VE GOT TO GET 'BIG' OUT OF THE WAY, UNTIL I CAN GET DIANA SAFELY ASHORE --
THE PHANTOM FINDS A TWIG IN THE WATER --

POINTING THE TWIG AT 'BIG', HE SLAPS THE WATER SHARPLY WITH HIS PALM, MAKING A SOUND LIKE A GUN-SHOT . . .

DROP YOUR GUN, 'BIG'! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
5-15

THINKING THE PHANTOM HAS A GUN, BIG FLEES WILDLY UPSTREAM, THRU THE SHALLOW WATER . . .

THAT TWIG CAME IN HANDY -- HE HAD ME COLD AND HE DIDN'T KNOW IT ---
5-16

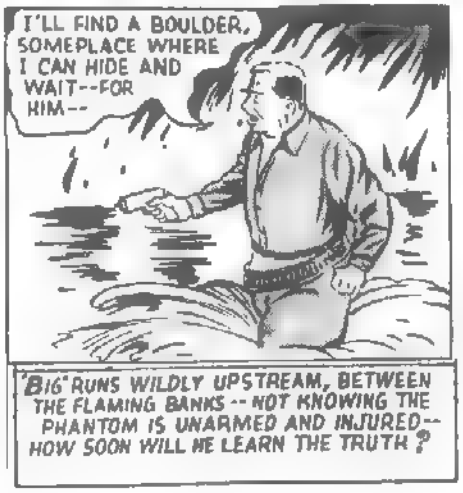
IF HE HAS THE NERVE TO COME BACK, WE'RE IN A BAD SPOT. I CAN HARDLY MOVE -- NO GUNS --
TAKING DIANA FROM THE BOAT, HE STUMBLES TOWARDS SHORE, FIGHTING THE DRIVING PAIN OF A FRACTURED LEG --

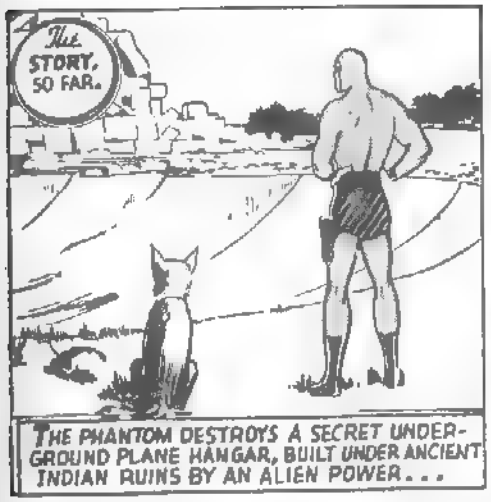
IS EVERYTHING -- ALL RIGHT NOW?
EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.

5-17
WIND-BORNE SPARKS HAVE SPREAD THE FIRE TO BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM . . .

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE MAROONED OUT HERE.
'DARLING, WHEN I SAW YOUR PARACHUTE BURN -- MY HEART STOPPED --

THAT WAS CLOSE. I'M GOING AFTER 'BIG' NOW -- I WANT YOU TO --
NO, DARLING. YOU HAVEN'T ANY GUNS! HE'S ARMED!


I'LL FIND A BOULDER, SOMEPLACE WHERE I CAN HIDE AND WAIT -- FOR HIM --
'BIG' RUNS WILDLY UPSTREAM, BETWEEN THE FLAMING BANKS -- NOT KNOWING THE PHANTOM IS UNARMED AND INJURED -- HOW SOON WILL HE LEARN THE TRUTH?



THE PHANTOM DESTROYS A SECRET UNDER-GROUND PLANE HANGAR, BUILT UNDER ANCIENT INDIAN RUINS BY AN ALIEN POWER...

"BIG", LEADER OF THE GANG, ESCAPES, WITH DIANA AS HOSTAGE. WHEN THE PHANTOM FOLLOWS BY PLANE, DIANA STARTS A FIRE IN THE WOODS TO SIGNAL HIM...

THE PHANTOM JUMPS FROM HIS PLANE-- WIND-BLOWN SPARKS IGNITE HIS PARACHUTE --HE DROPS A HUNDRED FEET INTO A STREAM--

"BIG" FLEES UPSTREAM, NOT KNOWING THE PHANTOM HAS INJURED HIS LEG AND LOST HIS GUNS -- BUT THE PHANTOM IS DETERMINED TO FOLLOW "BIG" -- GUNS OR NO GUNS --- TOMORROW - BURNS

tomorrow - PHANTOM FIRST-AID.

FINDING THAT DIANA HAS SEVERE ARM BURNS, THE PHANTOM QUICKLY TURNS THE BOAT UPRIGHT AND SEARCHES THE LOCKER

HE BREWS STRONG TEA OVER SMOLDERING EMBERS IN THE BURNING FOREST..

THEN COOLS THE BREW IN THE STREAM---

tomorrow - ARGUMENT

DIANA, THERE'S A LAKE DOWNSTREAM; PETE'S WAITING THERE FOR YOU--WITH A PLANE.
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO HIDE IT--BUT I KNOW YOUR LEG IS HURT.

YOU CAN'T STAND UP.
I'M ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING AFTER 'BIG' NOW—EVERYTHING I'VE DONE MEANS NOTHING IF I LET HIM ESCAPE.

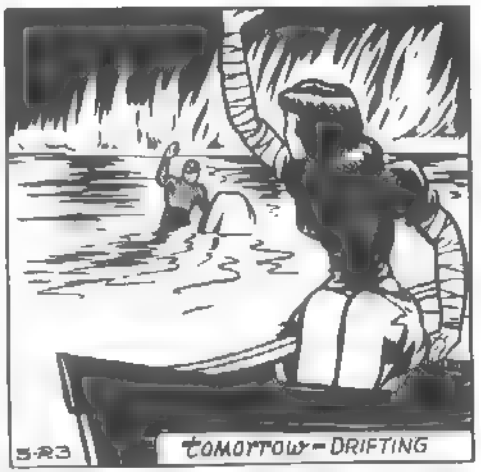
HE'S GOT OTHER SECRET HANGARS BEING BUILT--
HE'S ARMED--HE'LL FIGHT LIKE A CORNERED RAT! YOU'RE UNARMED! YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK!

DIANA, IF I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE, IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER--
BUT YOU'RE CRIPPLED--YOU'RE--HELPLESS--I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I WON'T LET YOU GO!
5-22

IT'S SUICIDE FOR YOU TO GO AFTER 'BIG'--BUT I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY. I--CAN'T SAY NO TO YOU--

THIS MOTOR WENT SMASH WHEN THE BOAT OVERTURNED--BUT YOU CAN DRIFT DOWNSTREAM--REMEMBER, PETE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE LAKE WITH HIS PLANE---

I WANT HIM TO GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL AT ONCE AND TAKE CARE OF THOSE BURNS. THEN, HE CAN COME BACK FOR ME--
OH, DARLING--BE CAREFUL--


5-23
tomorrow—DRIFTING

I WAS A FOOL TO LEAVE HIM CRIPPLED AND UNARMED---BUT WHEN HE MAKES UP HIS MIND---WELL--THAT'S THE END OF IT--PETE'LL BE WAITING AT THE LAKE FOR ME--

OF COURSE! PETE'LL COME BACK AND HELP HIM! OH, THIS DRIFTING IS SO SLOW! MOTOR'S NO GOOD--AND JUST SLOWING THE BOAT---
5-24

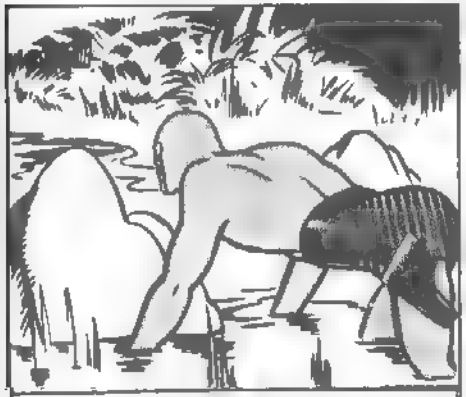
IF I CAN ONLY GET TO PETE IN TIME!
SHE FINDS A FLOATING BRANCH--IT MAKES A POOR PADDLE, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING---

THE PHANTOM FORGES SLOWLY AHEAD, ALONG THE SMOKING, BURNING BANKS--AHEAD, SOMEWHERE, 'BIG' IS WAITING, ARMED--READY TO FIGHT "LIKE A CORNERED RAT"!

AFTER A PAINFUL JOURNEY DOWNSTREAM, DIANA FINALLY REACHES THE LAKE -- AND PETE, THE PILOT!

tomorrow-"DEVIL'S" NOT STUCK

'DEVIL' DOESN'T NEED A SECOND INVITATION -- HE'S OFF LIKE A STREAK!



SLOWLY, THE PHANTOM CRAWLS UPSTREAM, AS HE SEARCHES FOR 'BIG', AND PASSES BEYOND THE FIRE-LINE OF THE BURNING WOODS-

AHEAD, 'BIG' HAS GIVEN UP FLIGHT -- HE WAITS, POISED AND READY---

TOMORROW = BULL BY THE HORNS

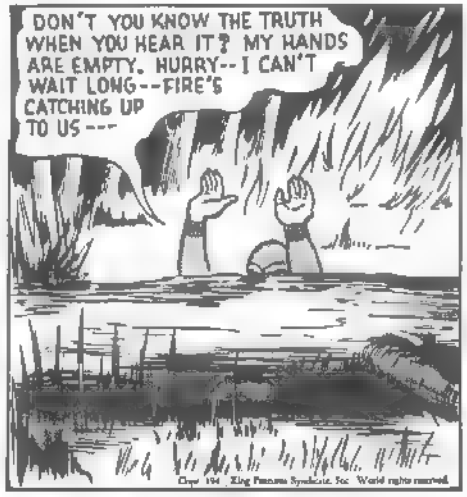
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE-- WELL, HERE GOES—

"BIG"!. HERE I AM!
5-29

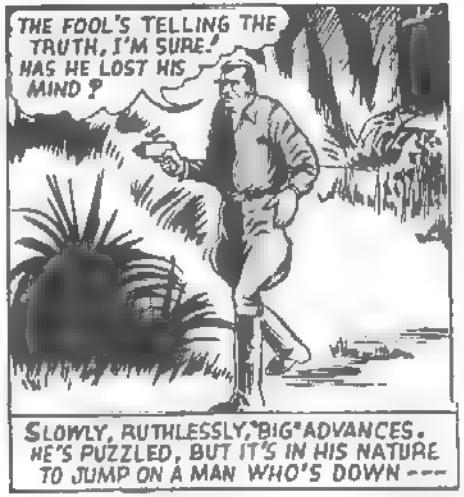
SAFE BEHIND HIS BOULDER, "BIG" IS STARTLED OUT OF HIS WITS BY THE UNEXPECTED VOICE!

I'M UNARMED AND CAN'T STAND UP! I DARE YOU TO COME AND GET ME!

YOU'RE LYING! YOU'RE ARMED-- YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME OUT INTO THE OPEN-


DON'T YOU KNOW THE TRUTH WHEN YOU HEAR IT? MY HANDS ARE EMPTY. HURRY--I CAN'T WAIT LONG--FIRE'S CATCHING UP TO US---

5-30
"BIG" FIRES AT THE EMPTY HANDS--AND MISSES--THERE IS NO RETURNED SHOT---


THE FOOL'S TELLING THE TRUTH, I'M SURE! HAS HE LOST HIS MIND?
SLOWLY, RUTHLESSLY, "BIG" ADVANCES. HE'S PUZZLED, BUT IT'S IN HIS NATURE TO JUMP ON A MAN WHO'S DOWN---

PETE AND DIANA TAKE OFF FROM THE LAKE-

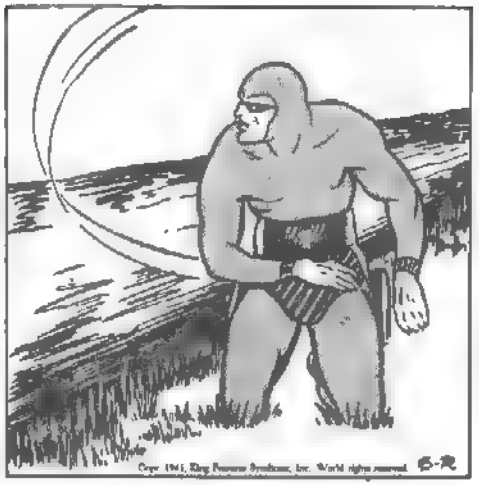
THEY FLY LOW, GOING BACK UPSTREAM-- UNTIL THEY REACH THE SCENE OF ACTION---

AND THIS IS WHAT THEY SEE! THE PHANTOM, LYING CRIPPLED AND UNARMED, BEHIND A LOG--FIRE HIM--"BIG" ADVANCING TOWARDS HIM...

HE'S CAUGHT--HELPLESS! AND WE CAN'T DO A THING FOR HIM!
5-31
CONTINUED-

AS 'BIG' ADVANCES TOWARDS THE UNARMED, INJURED PHANTOM, READY TO FIRE AT THE FIRST CHANCE . . .

ONE THROW, AND IT'S GOT TO BE GOOD --- I WON'T HAVE A SECOND CHANCE --

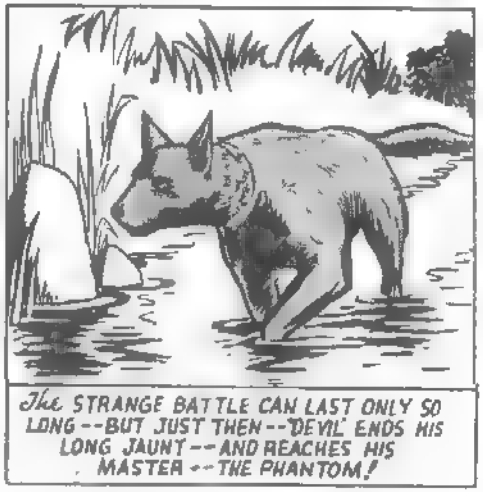

6-2

AND IT IS GOOD!

'BIG' SEARCHES FOR HIS PISTOL, WHICH HAS LODGED SOMEWHERE IN THE STREAM-BED ---BUT THE STEADY STREAM OF ROCKS KEEPS HIM AWAY FROM THE SPOT--!

GET AWAY FROM THERE!
6-3

THE PHANTOM HURLS A STONE, KNOCKING 'BIG'S' GUN FROM HIS HAND -- FRANTICALLY, 'BIG' TRIES TO PICK UP HIS GUN . . . .


The STRANGE BATTLE CAN LAST ONLY SO LONG --BUT JUST THEN --'DEVIL' ENDS HIS LONG JAUNT --AND REACHES HIS MASTER --THE PHANTOM!

'BIG' GIVES UP TRYING TO GET HIS GUN, AND TAKES TO HIS HEELS!

'DEVIL', OLD FELLA --YOU DIDN'T DESERT ME, DID YOU? AFTER HIM, BOY! BRING HIM BACK!

6-4

AND ABOVE THE FLAMING TREES --DIANA AND PETE CIRCLE --HELPLESS TO AID --THEY CAN ONLY WATCH AND HOPE!

AS "BIG" TRIES TO ESCAPE, "DEVIL" IS AFTER HIM -- AS "BIG" TURNS, "DEVIL" TURNS WITH HIM...

"BIG" GOES TO THE LEFT, "DEVIL" FORCES HIM TO THE RIGHT, THE WOLF'S LONG FANGS GLEAMING...
6-5

NO MATTER WHICH WAY "BIG" TURNS, "DEVIL" FORCES HIM SLOWLY BACK -- HERDING HIM LIKE A DOG HERDS SHEEP -- HERDING HIM BACK TO THE PHANTOM...

UNABLE TO USE HIS RIGHT LEG, THE PHANTOM WAITS AND WATCHES — THE FIRE BEHIND HIM IS COMING CLOSER AND HOTTER -- "BIG" IS BEING DRIVEN NEARER -- AND NEARER --

FROM THE PLANE, DIANA LOOKS DOWN ON THE WEIRD SCENE BELOW IN THE FLAMING FOREST —

- AS "DEVIL" HERDS "BIG", PREVENTING HIM FROM ESCAPING -- AND FORCING HIM BACK TO THE INJURED PHANTOM -

NOW I'LL KILL YOU -- KILL YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!
DESPERATE, WILD WITH RAGE AND FEAR, "BIG" SUDDENLY RUSHES AT THE PHANTOM WITH HATRED AND MURDER IN HIS EYES!
6-6

AS "BIG" RUSHES, THE INJURED PHANTOM SHOVES HIS LOG -- "BIG" TUMBLES OVER IT!

THEY GO INTO A TANGLE, STRUGGLING VIOLENTLY --

AT THAT MOMENT, A TALL, BURNING TREE TOPPLES OVER THEM -- THE FIGURES ARE HIDDEN!
6-7

THE END -- FOR BOTH -- OF THEM -- HE'S DEAD --
THAT'S THE LAST GLIMPSE THEY HAVE OF THE PHANTOM FROM THE PLANE -- DIANA FAINTS -- NOTHING MORE CAN BE SEEN BELOW -- NOTHING BUT SMOKE AND FIRE —

PETE FLIES DIANA BACK TO THE COAST--NEITHER SPEAKS DURING THE ENTIRE JOURNEY--THEY'VE GIVEN THE PHANTOM UP AS DEAD . . .

BUT THE BURNING TREE HAS NOT FALLEN ON THE PHANTOM AND 'BIG'--IT IS WEDGED IN ANOTHER TREE--AND THEY FIGHT FURIOUSLY BENEATH IT FOR A FEW MOMENTS —

6-9
THEIR STRUGGLE CARRIES THEM INTO THE STREAM

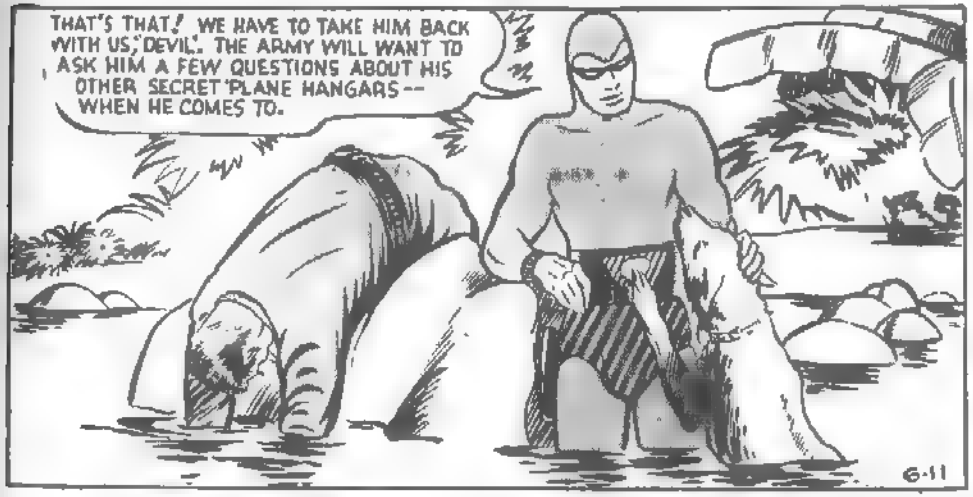
'BIG'S FEAR GIVES HIM A WILD STRENGTH! HE TWISTS TO HIS FEET--AND POISES A HEAVY ROCK OVER THE INJURED PHANTOM--

AS 'BIG' BRINGS DOWN THE HEAVY STONE, THE PHANTOM DIVES AT HIM, HIS INJURED LEG FORGOTTEN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE--

6-10

THE IRON HANDS FIND THEIR MARK . . .

--AND THE EPIC BATTLE IS OVER!


THAT'S THAT! WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM BACK WITH US, 'DEVIL'. THE ARMY WILL WANT TO ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS OTHER SECRET 'PLANE HANGARS--WHEN HE COMES TO.
6-11

WEARILY, HE ROLLS A LOG INTO THE STREAM-

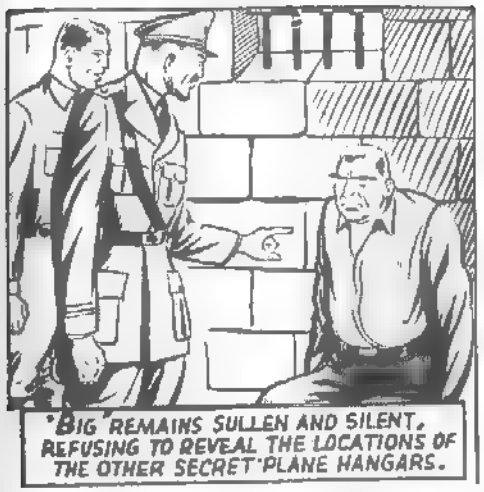
SLOW GOING, 'DEVIL', BUT WE'LL GET THERE, EVENTUALLY.
WITH THE LOG AS THEIR CRAFT, THEY DRIFT DOWNSTREAM . . .

BROKEN WITH GRIEF, WORN FROM BURNS AND EXPOSURE, DIANA RESTS IN THE COASTAL ARMY HOSPITAL . . .

MEANWHILE, THE STRANGE TRIO FLOATS SLOWLY DOWN THE STREAM. THOUGH THE PHANTOM IS UNARMED, "BIG" HAS GIVEN UP IDEAS OF ESCAPE. HE FEARS THOSE IRON HANDS MORE THAN BULLETS.

AS PETE WALKS SADLY ON THE BANKS, HE STARES--AT THE WEARY, HALF-STARVED CREW THAT SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED FROM THE DEAD!

"BIG" IS PLACED IN THE ARMY JAIL -- WHERE HE SITS, SULLEN AND SILENT. . .


"BIG" REMAINS SULLEN AND SILENT, REFUSING TO REVEAL THE LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER SECRET 'PLANE HANGARS.

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING. HE JUST WON'T TALK.
MAYBE THAT MASKED CHAP WHO BROUGHT HIM IN CAN HELP US.

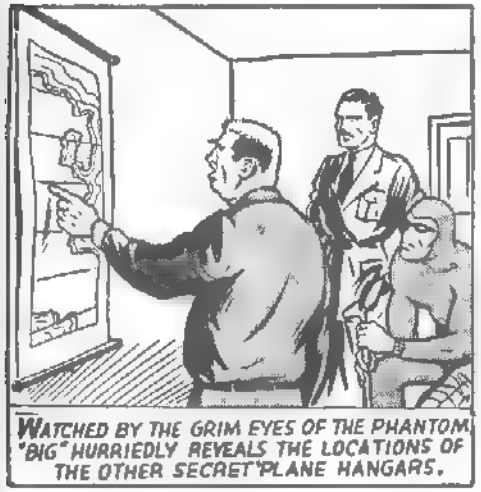
HE'S STUBBORN AND THREATS DON'T SEEM TO BOTHER HIM.
I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT HIM.

DON'T YOU WANT TO USE THE WHEELCHAIR?
NO, PETE. I'LL WALK, BUT BRING IT ALONG. "BIG" MAY NEED IT.
6-16
TOMORROW—THE PHANTOM'S LOOK.

YOU STILL REFUSE TO TELL US THE LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER 'PLANE HANGARS?
I'M NOT SAYING A WORD--AND NOBODY CAN MAKE ME!

OPEN THE CELL.

NO! DON'T LET HIM IN HERE! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW, BUT KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME!
6-17


WATCHED BY THE GRIM EYES OF THE PHANTOM, "BIG" HURRIEDLY REVEALS THE LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER SECRET 'PLANE HANGARS.

THE ARMY MOVES FAST! WITHIN THREE DAYS, THE HALF-DOZEN SECRET HANGARS, SOME COMPLETED, SOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ARE CAPTURED!

NO ONE IMAGINED THIS FOREIGN CONSPIRACY WAS SO WIDE-SPREAD, BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW--THANKS TO YOU.
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. THERE WILL BE OTHER ATTEMPTS.

WE'VE RESPECTED YOUR WISH TO REMAIN UNKNOWN, BUT WE'RE DEEPLY IN DEBT TO YOU. CAN'T YOU TELL US WHO YOU ARE?
YOUR FRIEND AND THE FRIEND OF ALL GOOD MEN EVERYWHERE.
6-18

IN A REMOTE RESORT IN THE ROCKIES. DIANA HAS FOUND SOLITUDE, A PLACE TO REST AND FORGET...

THE PHANTOM VISITS DIANA'S MOTHER.

OUTSIDE THE HOME OF DIANA'S MOTHER---

THERE HE IS--THAT LITTLE, DARK MAN!

I DON'T SEE ANYONE, MRS. PALMER.

HE WAS THERE, I TELL YOU! JUST LOOKING AT ME!

SOMEONE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR. MAYBE IT'S A TELEGRAM FROM DIANA.

E-E-E-K...

THE LITTLE, DARK MAN!

THERE'S NO ONE HERE, MRS. PALMER.

I TELL YOU--THAT LITTLE, DARK MAN--WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THAT DOOR!
JUST BE CALM, MRS. PALMER. WHEN WE'RE UPSET, WE'RE APT TO SEE ANYTHING.

I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. JUST WISHING FOR HIM WON'T BRING HIM BACK.

IF I GET BACK AMONG PEOPLE AGAIN, IF I CAN GO TO WORK OR FIND SOMETHING TO OCCUPY MY MIND--MAYBE I CAN FORGET.

BUT IT'S GOING TO BE HARD--SO HARD!
DIANA DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE PHANTOM IS ALIVE--AND WAITING AT HER HOME FOR HER!

OH...

THE LITTLE, DARK MAN— UHHH---
MRS. PALMER!

HE WAS-- LOOKING IN THAT WINDOW--
MRS. PALMER, YOU'VE BEEN WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT DIANA. THERE IS NO LITTLE MAN, BUT JUST TO REASSURE YOU, I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

AS THE PHANTOM WALKS, HIS SHARP EARS CATCH A FAINT SOUND FROM THE BUSHES--

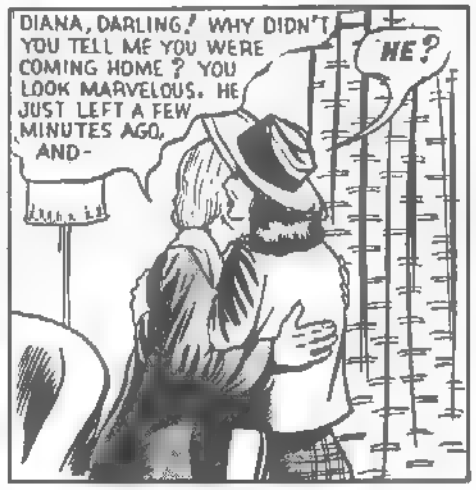
WELL, MOWGI! SO IT'S YOU! YOU'RE A LONG WAY HOME!
GREETINGS, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.

MY MISTAKE, MRS. PALMER. THIS IS THE LITTLE MAN YOU SAW, HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR ME.

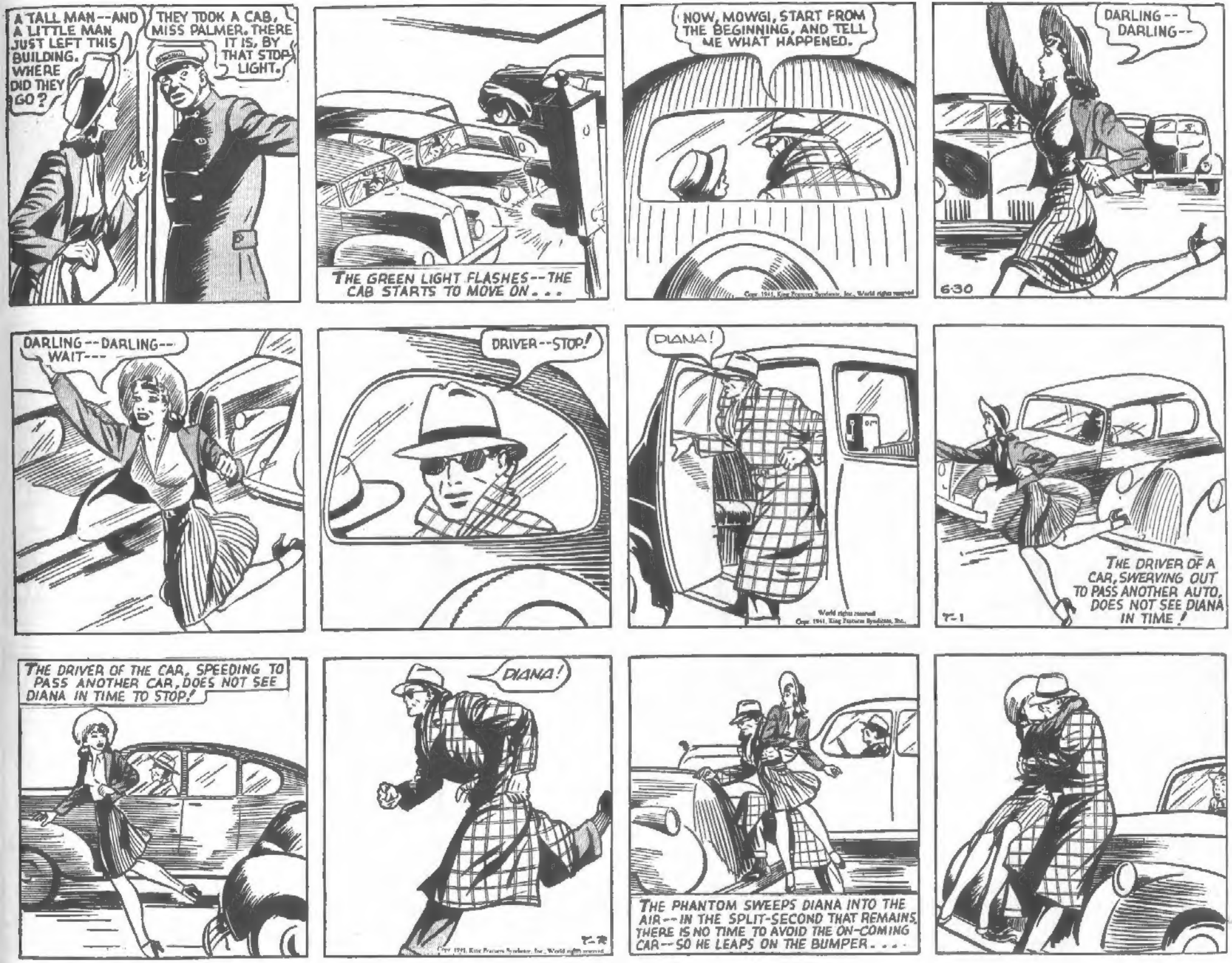
HE IS OF THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE. HE HAS BROUGHT ME BAD NEWS. I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE.
WHAT IS THE BAD NEWS?

I MUST GO AT ONCE. WHEN DIANA FINALLY COMES HOME, TELL HER I WILL RETURN AS SOON AS I CAN.
Hmm--DON'T BRING THAT LITTLE MAN BACK WITH YOU! HE HAD ME HALF-CRAZY!

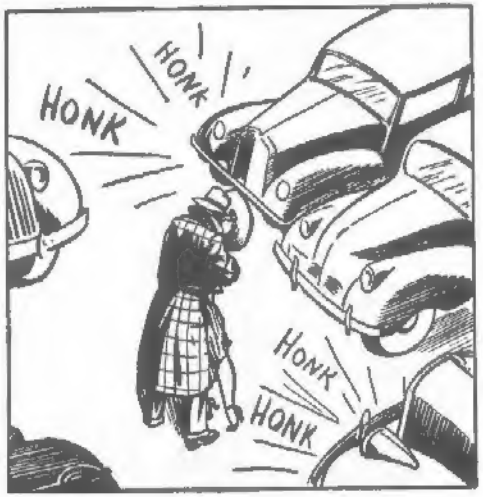
HOME. MOTHER'LL BE SURPRISED TO SEE ME.
MEANWHILE, AT THE RAILROAD STATION—


DIANA, DARLING! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE COMING HOME? YOU LOOK MARVELOUS. HE JUST LEFT A FEW MINUTES AGO, AND-
HE?

YES, HE AND "DEVIL", AND THAT LITTLE, DARK MAN-- DIANA--!
CONTINUED—


A TALL MAN--AND A LITTLE MAN JUST LEFT THIS BUILDING. WHERE DID THEY GO?
THEY TOOK A CAB, MISS PALMER. THERE IT IS, BY THAT STOP LIGHT.
THE GREEN LIGHT FLASHES--THE CAB STARTS TO MOVE ON . . .
NOW, MOWGI, START FROM THE BEGINNING, AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
DARLING-- DARLING--
6-30
DARLING--DARLING-- WAIT---
DRIVER--STOP!
DIANA!
THE DRIVER OF A CAR, SWERVING OUT TO PASS ANOTHER AUTO, DOES NOT SEE DIANA IN TIME!
THE DRIVER OF THE CAR, SPEEDING TO PASS ANOTHER CAR, DOES NOT SEE DIANA IN TIME TO STOP!
DIANA!
THE PHANTOM SWEEPS DIANA INTO THE AIR--IN THE SPLIT-SECOND THAT REMAINS, THERE IS NO TIME TO AVOID THE ON-COMING CAR--SO HE LEAPS ON THE BUMPER . . .

DO YOU MIND GOING SOMEPLACE ELSE? I'M IN A HURRY.


HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK

GET OUTA THE STREET! YOU'RE BLOCKING TRAFFIC FOR FIVE BLOCKS!

PARKING ZONE
ONE HOUR
• ONLY •
T-3

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE REALLY HERE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, DIANA. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I'M--FINE. WHEN I THINK HOW CLOSE WE CAME TO MISSING EACH OTHER, MY HEART STOPS.

YOU--AGAIN!
T-4

MAMA, OPEN THE DOOR. IT'S US!
tomorrow-MOWGI'S MISSION

DIANA, DEAR, THIS EXCITEMENT HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOU. YOU'D BETTER GO TO BED AND REST.
I AM--TIRED. BUT WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO BE TOGETHER, WON'T WE?

IT'S HARD TO BE PARTED SO SOON AGAIN, DIANA-- BUT I MUST GO AWAY.
GO AWAY? WHEN?

AT ONCE. MOWGI HAS COME HALF-WAY ACROSS THE WORLD TO FIND ME. HE HAS BROUGHT BAD NEWS.
ISN'T THAT SO, MOWGI?

IT IS TRUE, OH GHOST WHO WALKS. TO THE ETERNAL SHAME OF THE BANDAR, THE TREASURE OF THE PHANTOM HAS BEEN STOLEN!
T-5
CONTINUED--

THE PHANTOM'S TREASURE-STOLEN? YOU MEAN, YOUR TREASURE?
IT IS NOT MY PERSONAL PROPERTY, DIANA. IT BELONGS TO THE LINE OF THE PHANTOM

"THE PHANTOM'S TREASURE HAS ACCUMULATED THRU THE CENTURIES, AND IS HIDDEN IN THE SKULL CAVE IN THE DEEP WOODS."

PRICELESS JEWELS, ANCIENT GOLD COINS-- ITS VALUE IS FABULOUS. NO ONE HAS EVER ATTEMPTED TO COUNT IT UP--"

FOR FOUR CENTURIES, THE BANDAR, THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN HEREDITARY GUARDIANS OF THIS TREASURE-- AND NOW, IT HAS BEEN STOLEN?
tomorrow=HOW THE TREASURE WAS OBTAINED.

WHERE DID THE PHANTOM'S TREASURE COME FROM?
IT STARTED WITH THE FIRST PHANTOM, FOUR CENTURIES AGO, DIANA.

"ON THAT DISTANT DAY, ON A REMOTE BENGALI SHORE, A BURIED TREASURE WAS FOUND BY NATIVES WHO BROUGHT IT TO THE FIRST PHANTOM, MY ANCESTOR."

"FROM THAT DAY ON, OTHER BURIED TREASURES WERE BROUGHT TO THE SKULL THRONE--TREASURE FROM SUNKEN SHIPS--FROM LOST CITIES--"

THE LOST WEALTH OF THE EARTH FLOWED TO THE SKULL THRONE-- WEALTH THAT WAS TO BE DEVOTED TO HUMANITY.
TOMORROW=PURPOSE OF THE PHANTOM'S TREASURE

STRANGE--YOU'VE ALWAYS SCORNED MONEY-- YET FROM YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE TREASURE, YOU'RE PROBABLY THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH.
THE TREASURE IS NOT MINE TO WASTE, DIANA--

MY ANCESTOR, THE FIRST PHANTOM, REALIZED WISELY THAT MONEY WOULD BE NEEDED TO FIGHT THE EVER-PRESENT FORCES OF PIRACY, GREED AND INJUSTICE THAT IS ITS ONLY PURPOSE.

FEW KNEW OF THE TREASURE. NEVER BEFORE HAS ANYONE ATTEMPTED TO STEAL IT. ALL FEARED ITS GUARDIANS, THE POISON PEOPLE AND THE PHANTOM, WHOM THEY BELIEVED TO BE IMMORTAL

NOW--IT HAS BEEN STOLEN, THIS TREASURE OF THE CENTURIES! I HAVE FAILED MY ANCESTORS, WHO INTRUSTED IT TO ME! I MUST RETURN TO BENGALI AT ONCE-- AND FIND IT!

I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE SO SOON.
DIANA, YOU KNOW THAT I MUST LEAVE.

I KNOW. I'M GOING WITH YOU.
IF YOU ONLY COULD! BUT YOU'VE BEEN THRU A LOT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. YOU'RE NOT WELL.

YOU MUST STAY HERE AND REST AND LET YOUR MOTHER TAKE CARE OF YOU...
I WON'T LET YOU GO AWAY AGAIN WITHOUT ME--AND THAT'S FINAL! LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE!
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Hmm...
tomorrow-MAMA'S PLAN

YOU AND I NEVER USED TO GET ALONG, BUT I'VE COME TO LIKE YOU ALMOST AS MUCH AS DIANA DOES.
THANK YOU, MRS. PALMER.

BUT SHE SHOULDN'T LEAVE NOW. SHE'S NOT WELL. SHE NEEDS MY CARE.
I KNOW THAT, BUT TRY TO CONVINCE HER. SHE'S STUBBORN AS A MULE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY. LEAVE WHILE SHE'S ASLEEP. WHEN SHE WAKES UP, I'LL TELL HER I ORDERED YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE.

GOODBYE-- DIANA--
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tomorrow-DREAM KISS

HE'S GONE--? WHY?
WE HAD AN ARGUMENT, WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP. I ORDERED HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE---

HE CAN'T LEAVE-- WITHOUT ME---
YOU CAN'T CATCH HIM, DEAR. HE'S BEEN GONE FOR HOURS.
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YOU NEVER COULD LIE, MAMA. YOU DIDN'T ORDER HIM OUT-- THE TWO OF YOU PLOTTED THIS--I SUPPOSE IT IS BEST---

I DREAMT THAT HE KISSED ME--I WONDER IF HE'LL EVER KISS ME AGAIN--?
Beginning NEXT WEEK THE PHANTOM'S TREASURE